THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS:
The Session of 1870 725
Ecclesiastical Notes.... 726
Separation of Church and State 726
The Protestant Church in Spain 726
Results of Papal Infallibility 726
RELIGIOUS AND DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:
The Wesleyan Conference..... 727
The Rev. R. Moffat.... 728
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS:
City of London School 728
Mill Hill School 728
Schools for Sons and Orphans of Missionaries 728
CORRESPONDENCE:
Nonconformists and the Education Bill 729
The Nonconformist Education Committee.... 730
Harrow School 730
University of London 730
Parliamentary Intelligence 730
The War 734
The Emperor's and King William's Proclamations 734
Supposed Plans of the Campaign 734
Holland and Belgium.... 735
Postscript 735
LEADING ARTICLES:
Summary 736
England's Policy in Relation to the War 736
The Ballot 737
Rome and Italy..... 737
The Dark Side of the War 737
Court, Official, and Personal News 738
Foreign Miscellany 742
Miscellaneous News 742
LITERATURE:
Van Lennep's Asia Minor 743
The Mediæval Papacy.. 744
Brief Notices 744
Miscellaneous 745

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE SESSION OF 1870.

THERE are several reasons for reviewing in these columns, with more than ordinary carefulness and discrimination, the ecclesiastical proceedings of Parliament during the Session just about to close. Nonconformists had expected more from it than it has yielded them. Looking to the cycles in which political feeling in the United Kingdom has customarily moved, we do not know that they need be startled at the result. Regarding only what was due to themselves, as constituting a wing of the Liberal army, we think they are entitled, if they should see fit, to complain. But it is not with any view to unavailing complaint that we desire to take an ecclesiastical retrospect of the Session of 1870. We are complying with our established custom in doing so. We are in the habit, once a year, of clearing the deck for future action; and, inasmuch as the whole question of the relations of the State to the Church will come under discussion next year, for the first time in the House of Commons, it will be useful—more than commonly useful perhaps—to form an accurate, as well as adequate, conception of the Parliamentary position of Dissenters.

They have succeeded in nothing this year, so far as Parliament is concerned. If we may so say, it has been their lot to pay this Session the minor expenses which they had unwittingly incurred by their extraordinary success last Session. Languor, in part—the consequence of protracted and over-strained effort—and, in part, gratitude to the leaders who had conducted them to triumph, made them less intensely earnest in insisting upon what they considered fairly due to their principles. They have not smitten upon the anvil of opportunity so unitedly, so directly, nor so powerfully, as they did in the case of the Irish Church Act. On the other hand, their ecclesiastical opponents have considerably rallied since that measure was passed, and have become stronger in purpose, and more buoyant in spirit. All this is natural enough, when fairly submitted to reflection, even if it was not foreseen. In looking back upon it, there seems no sufficient ground for astonishment. What has happened to Nonconformists, happens to most communities which pursue a policy of their own. After a greater advance than they had dared to anticipate, they have met with a more unequivocal retardation than they had expected to experience—not because their political position is relatively much weaker than it was, but because, after a grand and exhaustive conflict, there is always some diminution of zeal on the part of the victors, and some increase of hostility on the part of the vanquished.

The Session of 1870—we speak, of course, principally of Liberationists—was entered upon with the tenderest and most delicate regard to the difficulties about to be faced by the Government. As matters have turned out, the Dissenters below the gangway were rather superfluously considerate. They undertook nothing which, in their opinion, would embarrass Mr. Gladstone. Incredulously as the allegation will probably be received by their political antagonists, we can aver, with truth, that they would have postponed even the two Bills which were introduced for their benefit, if it could have been shown that the Irish Land Bill would have been endangered by them. They looked deprecatingly upon the motion for the disestablishment of the Welsh Church, and with some lukewarmness upon the motion of Mr. S. Beaumont for releasing spiritual peers (hereafter created) from attendance in the House of Lords, not because they did not concur in the objects proposed, but chiefly because, having respect to the great pending struggle between Irish tenants and Irish landlords, they deemed these propositions untimely and inconvenient. No members contributed more steadily and conscientiously by their votes to the triumph of the Ministerial measure than the Nonconformist members—and none, we venture to add, indulged in more moderate expectations in reference to ecclesiastical changes.

As a matter of fact—and we record it without bitterness, and merely as yielding instruction for times to come—they failed in everything they proposed to accomplish, and were overpowered on every question (with the exception of a census of religious profession) which seemed objectionable to their interests or principles. They made large concessions for the sake of conciliating opposition to the Universities Tests Bill, but without effect; the Ministers who exacted those concessions as the price of their support having failed to obtain for the measure a preponderant number of votes in the House of Lords. The Burial Laws Amendment Bill was framed with a somewhat squeamish regard to the selfish sentimentalism of State Churchmen—the second reading of the Bill was carried by an immense majority—but as, for some mysterious and unassignable reason, it was sent to a Select Committee by the influence of the Home Secretary, backed by the pleased votes of the Tories, it lost its chance of progress for the Session, and, driven into difficulties of time and opportunity, was factiously talked out. These instances will suffice to make manifest the strangely altered spirit in which the Legislature regards measures based upon principles of religious equality when they concern merely the interests of Nonconformists. What is good for Ireland and for Roman Catholics is not considered good for England and for Dissenters.

Of the principles embodied in the Elementary Education Bill, and of the course pursued by the majority of the representative House with regard to it, under the guidance of the Government, we have already said enough—perhaps more than enough. It seems to have been framed, amended, and finally arranged, with a view to get it passed this Session. In outline it was a compromise effected with the Conservative party. When, and to what extent, that party was consulted—whether the moderate Liberals were consulted through their chiefs, or whether the Privy Council acted alone in their name, and, therefore, presumptively on their behalf, we have no means of judging. But it is an indisputable fact that the Nonconformists were never consulted as to what provisions the scheme should sanction, and that the greatest ignorance of their views and feelings, or the most contemptuous indifference to them, was conspicuous in the original cast of the Bill, and was made more and more so, as it passed into Committee. No indignant protestations can get rid of these simple facts. No repudiation of help not longer urgently needed, can much alter the complexion of them. At any rate, it is better that Liberationists should take them into account for what they are worth. In shaping their policy for the next campaign, it would be as serious a mistake to ignore them as it would be to suffer any feeling aroused by them to weaken their strongest motives for perseverance.

But passing away from the more prominent ecclesiastical features of the Session to the less obtrusive, we observe what appear to us to be unmistakeable symptoms of a reactionary process going on among the Liberal party. It is useless to throw the handkerchief over causes the effects of which are plainly visible—as plainly visible to those who sit on the Speaker's left hand, as to those on his right. The old undertone of dislike to, and contempt for, what are described euphemiously as "extreme principles," *i.e.*, principles of even-handed justice to the minority, are beginning to be once more as rife as they were five years ago on the benches behind the Government. We blame nobody who does not see occasion to blame himself. It is, as we have admitted, quite natural. Certainly, it is not surprising. When tools, not liked for their own fashion, have done their work, and can no longer be handled for what is deemed a useful purpose, they are commonly set aside. The manifestation of feeling on the subject of Trinity College, Dublin; the Glebe Loans (Ireland) Bill; the resolution to proceed, in deference to "high authority," with the Table of Lessons Bill; the near escape we have had from a Census of Religious Profession; a score of little circumstances, unintentionally rather than designedly indicative of ecclesiastical bias, have made it patent that in their future movements, Liberationists, while assisting heart and hand in the promotion of every truly national work, must cease to place implicit confidence in the co-operation of even the most respected statesmen to give legislative effect to the principle of religious equality, much beyond the absolute demand of the times. Of course, the second member for Bradford cannot look for aid from the Liberal party, as a whole, for the wide and searching question which he has given notice of raising in the House of Commons next Session—but it is as well, perhaps, to ascertain as soon as may be, the numbers and the spirit of those members who believe something to be due to their own professions as well as to the allies with whom they are proud, on all fitting occasions, to act.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

As we get near to the end of the Session, natural impatience is manifested at anything which prolongs the hours of sitting, or that might prolong the duration of Parliament. Bills that, three or four months ago, would have been discussed at length, are now dismissed in a few minutes. Clauses are added or modified without debate, and whatever may be their nature, it is impossible to rouse anything like successful opposition. In the Lords, of course, and in the matter of education, nobody dreams of opposition. Hence, on Monday evening, the religious clauses of the Education Bill underwent, at the instance of the Government, important modifications. One, relating to the inspection and examination of children on religious subjects, virtually involves a further concession to the Establishment. However, we have expected this, and shall not be surprised at anything in the same direction that may be introduced at the last moment into the Bill. We certainly thought that the Cabinet had fully disclosed its hand upon this subject. We had the word of a Cabinet Minister to this effect; but now we find another Cabinet Minister—Earl De Grey—bringing in new clauses, and very probably there will be others. Of this, however, we may be assured, viz., that there will not be one that is not intended to favour, or has not a secret or ultimate reference to, the Church Establishment.

As for the other measures. On Tuesday morning, just before sunrise, there was a sharp debate on the Irish Loans Bill. Mr. Newdegate endeavoured to stop the progress of the measure, and some Liberal members joined him. He was unsuccessful, however. The measure is of the sort which finds favour on the Conservative benches, and so Mr. Newdegate was beaten. Besides, his opposition is based on so narrow a ground, that it is difficult for any believer in religious equality to support him. This Bill is now safe. So is the Prayer-book Table of Lessons Bill, which has come down to the Commons from the Upper House. The precise object of this measure is to increase the popularity of the public services of the Establishment, and therefore, of course, the Government will see that it is carried. But it is an odd measure to bring before such a Parliament as that of England. However, we dare say that the Nonconformists will consent to it, and thus give their Episcopalian brethren a little more liberty in hearing the Scriptures read at public worship than they at present enjoy. The Census Bill passed a second reading in the Lords on Monday night; and the Annuity Tax (Edinburgh and Montrose) Bill was read a third time and finally passed—thus ending a painful and wearisome controversy. Other Church and Ecclesiastical measures have no chance of making further progress. What has been done is pretty well all that will be done. Nonconformists have to say, that nothing has been done to relieve *them* of the personal injustice and disgrace of such disabilities as those from which they at present suffer. The "strongest Liberal Government" that England has ever seen has strengthened the Establishment and snapped its fingers at all who do not belong to it. This is an old experience, however, which, although painful, is not surprising.

We are glad to see the quiet progress of the Methodist Conference, which no untoward question disturbs. It is absorbed in its own work, and appears to be discharging that work with effect. One of the most remarkable indications of the self-sacrifice of the members of this body, as well as of its strength, was conveyed in a report to the Conference last week relating to chapel-building. It was stated that, in addition to 60,795*l.* applied to the reduction or extinction of debts, so large a sum as 228,799*l.* had been expended in new erections and enlargements, so that the aggregate amount expended on trust property had been 289,594*l.*, being an increase of 27,501*l.* on the preceding year. It was also reported that 360 new building cases had been sanctioned, involving an outlay in the current year of 220,724*l.* This is probably as much as all the other Nonconformist communities contribute to such a purpose, and far more than is ordinarily contributed in the Church.

It is not surprising to find that the judgment in Mr. Bennett's case finds favour in High Church circles. The *Guardian* of last week says it is difficult to conceive how any different judgment could have been pronounced. Perhaps so; but we differ from our contemporary on one point. The *Guardian* says:—

> Sir Robert Phillimore's judgment in this case is simply a judgment in favour of liberty. He has decided—and that is, it seems to us, his true province—not that the doctrines brought before him in connection with Mr. Bennett's books are the only true deductions from the formularies, but that they and the language in which they are expressed are fully and fairly within the liberty of an English clergyman. We, who believe the doctrines to be in substance true, and the only natural and fair expression of the teaching of the English Church, are quite content, that from a law court, bound to rules of jealous caution, so much should have been laid down.

It seems to us that Sir Robert Phillimore went farther than this. He decided that Mr. Bennett was not only at liberty to preach his doctrine, but that it was *the* doctrine of the Church. If he did not do this, what did he do? Did he say that that doctrine and that of the Evangelicals could both be preached, and that the Church sanctioned two opposing and mutually destructive theories? We do not so read his judgment. Of course anything may be believed as to the theology of the Establishment, but anything cannot be believed as to the common sense of judges.

We are thankful to find the Bishop of Jamaica at last on our side in regard to the benefits and advantages of disestablishment and disendowment. At a meeting held on behalf of the Jamaica Church last week, the Bishop, we are told,

> Expressed his firm confidence in the future welfare and permanency of the Jamaica Church, which though disestablished and thrust down from its high social *status* by the policy of the Imperial Government, would acquire a deeper establishment in the hearts and affections of her people. He believed that, supported mainly by the voluntary contributions of her people, aided by the wisdom and piety of the Bishop of Kingston, and more than all nurtured and protected by the abiding presence of our Lord and Saviour, the Church would rise to the arduous position which God has decreed for her, and would not only perpetuate her ministrations to the 100,000 persons now folded in her communion, but would extend her holy mission to thousands and thousands of the descendants of the subject race.

That is what we have always said. How is it that Churchmen are always so wise after the fact? How is it that they always predict increased success as soon as *our* measures are carried and *their* policy is defeated?

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

The following notices of motion appeared on the Order-book of the House of Commons on Friday last:—

Mr. MIALL—CHURCH OF ENGLAND,—Committee of the whole House for the purpose of laying before it resolutions preliminary to the extension to the Church of England of the policy of disestablishment and disendowment carried into effect by the Irish Church Act of 1869. [Early next Session.]

Mr. WATKIN WILLIA —CHURCH IN WALES,—1. That it is expedient and just that the Church in the Dominion and Principality of Wales should be disestablished and its union with the State put an end to; and 2, that, subject to making provisions for existing interests, that Church should be disendowed, and the funds be applied to the promotion of a really national system of education for the said Principality. [Early next Session.]

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN SPAIN.

The following facts, respecting the origin and progress of the Protestant Church at Cartagena, will be read with interest. They are furnished by an English gentleman, who has resided there for nine or ten years. Last Christmas-day he wrote:—"I am writing this to you one hour before attending Divine worship in our little Protestant church. We have practised singing some few times, and I think we shall sing *for the first time to-day in Cartagena with Protestants*. . . . If you can amongst your friends send us 5*l.*, or less, to help us we will thank you." In March he says:—"The committee have a hard struggle, the priests are striving hard to wrench the building from us, and rather than let that occur, we have paid the rent out of our own pockets, and will sign or contract for the building for one year certain. The minister is very earnest, and is almost hoping against hope. He has suffered imprisonment and banishment for years on account of his 'Evangelical views.' There is service every Sunday, and during the week boys' and girls' schools in the chapel, and adults education in the evening, which is very fairly attended. The priests are up in arms against us, and have opened six free schools, *with dinners free*, hoping to draw the boys from our school, but have failed." *The Protestant schools are also free.*

The letter from which these extracts are taken awakened an interest in the cause in the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Care, members of the church of which the Rev. J. C. Harrison is pastor at Camden-town, the friends to whom they were addressed. They quickly collected 18*l.*, and transmitted the same to their friend at Cartagena.

The following letter from Pastor Trigo, is in answer to Mr. Care's request for further particulars:—

(Translation.)
Plaza del Rey, No. 18, Cartagena Espana,
June 30, 1870.

Mr. James Care, 103, High-street, Camden-town, London.

Dear Sir, and beloved brother in Jesus Christ our only hope of salvation,—We received through the hands of our beloved brother Mr. George Josling, your letter, remitting the donations collected by you in England for our church and schools in this city, an act which evinces the lively interest which the Christians of your favoured land take in the progress of the divine and saving doctrines of our Lord and Master in this my beloved but benighted country. Receive our heartfelt thanks for the timely assistance, and rest assured that your good material aid given to the Lord's work calls forth our grateful acknowledgments.

In Cartagena there exists at present but one Evangelical church, to which the Lord has deigned to appoint me pastor, to feed this His flock with the words of eternal life. The Count Bernstoff, of the Berlin Society for the Dissemination of the Gospel, and the Rev. J. Jamieson, of the Scottish Bible Society, and various other Christian brethren who have visited this station have been able to form a favourable opinion of the state of progression in which they found evangelical education here, from the considerable number of children of both sexes who attend our schools, and also from the little success obtained by the Roman clergy in their attempt to destroy our youthful establishment. Up to the present time all the funds received have been invested in the rental of the edifice and its reconstruction or alteration in adopting it for the purposes of public worship and for the schools. This has been barely sufficient, and there yet remains to be realised a sufficient sum to procure the necessary adjuncts to the schools so that they can be conducted in accordance with the progress of the times. Our present resources to sustain this good work are very insignificant from the fact of there being a very few original Protestant residents, and those natives who have joined our church being composed of the poorer classes, are generally unable to contribute pecuniary aid. We find it difficult under these circumstances to satisfy the demands of our teachers for their stipulated salaries. We particularly require seats and desks or tables for writing, and the demand for stationery and books for the classes is considerable. The number of male children inscribed on the books is 287, and of females 189. From these numbers will have to be deducted some whom their parents through the threats of the priests have withdrawn, and others who left through the want of proper places to practise writing lessons.

The Roman clergy, seeing the number of children confided to our charge, and fearing the rapid progress of Protestantism in a city formerly so eminently Romanised, have called together the more prominent Roman Catholics, who have formed a Catholic society, which has established free schools in various parts of the city, opening one a few doors from our own. This naturally diminished the number of our scholars for a short time, but notwithstanding their promises and threats to parents, they are returning to our classes daily, thereby acknowledging their preference for our doctrines, so that considering the foregoing circumstances, our establishment is progressing favourably. Since the opening of Divine worship in this church last September, where have been celebrated nine marriages, and on the coming 10th July will be celebrated (God willing) the seventeenth baptism, all which persons with their parents and sponsors have left the Church of Rome.

To demonstrate the desire evinced for religious instruction by the people of this city and the surrounding towns and country, the following facts will suffice. From the 1st of March last, when the Rev. J. Jamieson appointed me the agent for his society in Scotland, there have been sold 658 Bibles, 353 Testaments, 600 copies of the *Evangelists*, and distributed 15,456 religious tracts; besides which, since October, 1868, the day on which I arrived from foreign exile to this town, there have been distributed 14,000 *Evangelists* and 20,000 religious tracts. Should all these efforts to evangelise the people be given up through the want of a little funds to sustain the good work? No! I have confidence in the charity and Christian zeal of the brethren of Europe, and in those of Evangelical England particularly, who have already made so many sacrifices for the benefit of my unhappy fatherland. Above all, my confidence in the goodness and protection of our Lord for the continuation of this good and holy cause is immense.

I hope also, my respected brother, that you will on your part use all the influence which Christian charity may dictate with the various religious societies of your country, as I am convinced that the Christians of England will answer to our call for aid (in the Lord's name), for the dissemination of His Divine Gospel throughout this benighted country.

I will always pray the Lord of hosts for the spiritual welfare and happiness of your country, that He will maintain it under His Divine protection, and illuminate and guide its Government by His Holy Spirit.

Salute the venerable brethren of your churches and all Christian congregations with my brotherly love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Your brother in the faith,
(Signed) MIGUEL TRIGO, Pastor.

[Donations to the Protestant Church at Cartagena will be thankfully received and transmitted by Mr. James Care, 103, High-street, Camden-town, N.W., or by Mr. William Freeman, publisher, 102, Fleet-street, London.]

RESULTS OF PAPAL INFALLIBILITY.

The Vienna *Official Journal* contains the following note:—"In consequence of the definition of the dogma of infallibility, the Government has resolved no longer to maintain the Concordat with Rome, which will therefore cease to be valid. The Chancellor of the Empire has consequently taken steps to notify the Roman Curia of the formal abrogation of the Concordat, and the Emperor by an autograph letter."

The *Times* hears on good authority that a large section of Roman Catholics in Austria have made up their minds to secede to Protestantism unless Cardinal Rauscher promptly repudiates the dogma of Papal Infallibility. This is a startling comment on Dr. Manning's declaration in the Vatican Council, that the immediate effect of proclaiming the dogma would be to induce a large secession from Protestantism to Roman Catholicism. The *Semaphore* of Marseilles announces that sixty-eight cardinals and prelates have landed in that city, coming from Rome. Dr. Manning has reached England.

Father Hyacinthe has written a letter, dated July 30, to the French papers, in which he protests, as a Christian and a Catholic, against the "pretended dogma" of the Infallibility of the Pope, and denies that the Council which professes to have imposed it was in any sense Œcumenical.

Pius IX., in proclaiming the dogma of infallibility, pronounced the following allocution:—

The authority of the Sovereign Pontiff is great, but it does not destroy, it raises up. It does not oppress, it supports, and very often defends the rights of our brothers; that is to say, of the bishops. If some have not rightly voted with us, let them know that they have pronounced with troubled minds, and that the Lord is never uncertain. Let them also remember that a few years ago they abounded in our view and that of this vast assembly. Have they, then, two consciences and two opinions on the same subject? Heaven forbid! We therefore pray to God, who performs such great marvels, to shed light on their hearts and minds in order that they may return to the bosom of their father, that is to say, to the Sovereign Pontiff, the humble Vicar of Jesus Christ, so that he may embrace them, and that they may labour with him against the enemies of the Church of God. May they be able to say with St. Augustin, "My God, Thou has given to us Thy admirable light, and we see." Yet may all see! May God pour his blessing on you!

The Madrid papers make much ridicule of the declaration of the Pope's infallibility, but the neo-Catholic organs are full of joy. The *Regeneracion* comes out with an illuminated border, and a silly effusion addressed to the "Infallible oracle."

Government have resolved to bring in a Scotch Education Bill next session. The fact was announced on Thursday night by Mr. Forster during the progress of the estimates.

The Communion in Westminster Abbey.—The memorial, signed by priests and deacons, recently presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in reference to the mixed communion, has been followed by one from laymen alone. This memorial expresses the hope that the Archbishop "may be pleased to take some steps to allay the deep feelings of pain and anxiety caused by the inference which may be drawn from that service, that it is consistent with the mind and rules of the Church of England that the Holy Communion should be knowingly administered to those who deliberately reject her authority and the doctrinal statements of her formularies."

Sunday Trading Prosecutions.—Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., was in the chair at a meeting held on Thursday night in the Hanover-square Rooms, the object of which was to raise 1,000*l* to prosecute people who break the Sunday Trading Act of Charles II. Remarking that in Roman Catholic countries the Sabbath is not kept, Mr. Fowler went on to say that Prussia, though Protestant, is even worse than Roman Catholic countries, and he had no doubt that the calamity of war had come upon her as a punishment. Admiral Fishbourne concurred in the views of the chairman that the two continental nations now at war were being punished for their sins, of which Sabbath desecration was a prominent one, and that our turn would come next if we did not take warning by their example. Mr. Baxter, the solicitor, seconded the motion, and he maintained that the magistrates ought to carry out the law to its end—that is, the Act of Charles II., which he declared was in full force.

The Governing Bodies of the Public Schools.—In Committee on the Public Schools Act (1868) Amendment Act, Mr. Winterbotham, on Thursday moved the insertion of a clause providing that no new statutes made by any of the governing bodies of the public schools under the powers of the present Act shall receive the approval of the Crown until such statutes have been laid for a fixed period before both Houses of Parliament. The rejection of this clause by a majority of thirty-four was, we cannot but think, peculiarly unfortunate at this juncture, and after the recent debate on Mr. Stevenson's motion relating to Harrow and Winchester School. The only experience which the public have had at present of the principles upon which the government of the great public schools is to be remodelled is not calculated to leave a favourable impression. In the scheme proposed in the case of Harrow school, the restriction of the governing body to members of the Church of England is distinctly a retrograde step; it is one which had no place in the original scheme of government, and it has been emphatically condemned by both the late and present head master of the school. The Solicitor-General contended the other night that the imposition of such a restriction was rendered compulsory by the terms of the Endowed Schools Act of 1869. Mr. Winterbotham maintained, on the other hand, that so far from being made compulsory, it was expressly forbidden by that Act, and Mr. Forster, on being appealed to, professed himself unable to decide on the meaning of the section in dispute. The construction contended for by Mr. Winterbotham may be, and we think is, founded on a misapprehension, but the most careful study of the terms of the Act, with the construction most favourable to the Solicitor-General's view, fails to show that the imposition of such a restriction as has been inserted in the scheme for Harrow School is anything more than authorised. There is no trace of any statutory obligation either upon the commissioners or the governing body to confine the members of that body to any particular Church or sect; and the insertion of such a restriction shows the necessity of subjecting the new statutes to Parliamentary supervision.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Religious and Denominational News.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

On Tuesday last week, the first session of the Conference was held. No laymen are admitted to the Conference, and at the opening there could not have been less than 500 ministers present. The roll of the Legal Hundred was called over, and leave of absence was granted to those members of it who were unable to attend. Ten vacancies had occurred in the Legal Hundred, and these were filled up by seniority and by election. The ministers who are elected on the ground of seniority are voted for by the members of the Legal Hundred only. Those who are elected without any reference to their age are voted for by all the ministers who have been ordained six years.

After the completion of the Legal Hundred (who may be called the trustees of the Conference), the Rev. John Farrar was elected to the presidency of the Conference. The Rev. J. J. James, D.D., was elected secretary to the Conference.

The retiring President presented the Conference seal to the newly-elected President, and expressed his thankfulness that he was able to present the seal untarnished. He had every confidence in the newly-elected President, who had for many years served the connexion with great ability and usefulness. His re-election to the Presidential chair was a special mark of the confidence and respect of his brethren. It was not necessary to refer to the duties of the office, as the newly-elected President had already passed through them.

The Rev. John Farrar, in acknowledging his election, said he entered upon the office with great diffidence. He was so sensible of his unfitness for the office that he shrank from its responsibility; he dreaded the possibility of a failure. But his life had been a succession of providences. Whatever he had, in the way of office or position in Methodism, had come to him; he had not gone to it. His first duty was one of thankfulness to God for having preserved him through his ministerial life. By the grace of God he had brought no discredit upon the Church with which he was connected. His next duty was to thank his ministerial brethren who had placed him in the chair. Not many ministers who had been in the ministry forty-eight years, as he had been, had attained to the honour, and he was thankful to find himself in possession of health and elasticity of mind. On that platform he had a mournful feeling, for he stood there alone. No man upon the platform had been upon it as long as he had been; year after year it had been swept of venerable and honoured men. He might be tempted to review the history of Methodism during the last half-century. They had passed through difficulty and trouble. In some of their struggles they had lost some of their best men, but they had survived those struggles. There had never been any vacillation as to their testimony to Christian truth. They had not abandoned their doctrinal standards. They had thrown no doubt upon the inspiration and authority of the Word of God; they had not turned the Pentateuch into fables, or discarded the Gospel of St. John. He (Mr. Farrar) had been in almost daily fellowship with some 200 of their ministers, and twenty years of his life had been spent in training young men for the office of the ministry. It had been his privilege to have a seat near to some of their ablest men for many years, and he almost envied the spirit and ability with which they had discharged the duties of the Presidential chair. It would be his endeavour to imitate his honoured predecessors.

Dr. James suitably acknowledged his appointment to the secretaryship of the Conference. All his early associations were Wesleyan, and Wesleyan ministers and their families were his principal and almost his only friends. They would not expect many words from him, but he would endeavour faithfully to fulfil his allotted duties.

The Rev. S. R. Hall moved the thanks of the Conference to the retiring President for his services during the past year. Differences of opinion sometimes arose among them, but Wesleyan ministers had great power to forgive, to forget, and to love. He had great pleasure in proposing the thanks of the Conference to the ex-President, the Rev. F. J. Jobson, D.D. Dr. Waddy seconded the resolution, and bore high and earnest testimony to the services of the retiring President. Dr. Jobson acknowledged the honour which he had received in suitable terms, and a vote of thanks was then tendered to the Rev. John Farrar for his services as secretary of the Conference.

The doors of the Conference were then opened for the admission of the people to the public Conference prayer-meeting, and the chapel was speedily crowded in every part. President Farrar conducted the prayer-meeting.

The open session of the Conference was held on Tuesday evening. The attendance was very large, every part of the edifice being filled. The various representatives of several of the affiliated Conferences were formally introduced. The address of the Irish Conference was read by the Rev. Dr. James, after which the Rev. J. W. M'Kay, the senior member of the deputation, addressed the Conference on the state of the work of God in Ireland. Compared with the magnitude of the operations in this country, the work in Ireland is small; but it is of great importance. He was happy to be able to report progress. They had provided additional chapel accommodation for 1,000 hearers, and in schools for 950 scholars. During the year they had paid off chapel, &c., debts to the amount of 2,390*l*.; the entire remaining debts not exceeding 6,877*l*. Their Sunday-schools number 265; scholars, 20,000 on the roll; average attendance, 14,400. The day-schools are advancing. The college at Belfast had justified their high expectations respecting it, and they hope Mr. Arthur would not be withdrawn from the presidency for some time to come. The college had supplied three candidates for the ministry this year. The loss in the number of members by emigration, death, &c., had been 1,900, and yet they report a net increase of 304 on the year. He referred to recent legislation in respect to Ireland, and urged that, so far as Ireland was concerned, every possible effort should be put forth to prevent the education of the people from falling into the hands of the Papists. A league, he said, had been formed with a view to preserve the school boards intact. Subsequently the representatives of the French and Canadian Conferences were introduced and addressed the assembly.

On Wednesday morning the assistant secretaries and other officials were appointed, and it was decided that the next Conference should be held at Manchester. Dr. Forster, from the United States, was introduced to the Conference. Memorials from circuits were presented, and also notices of motion. The Rev. J. Rattenbury stated that the committee of the worn-out ministers and ministers' widows fund had decided to increase the payments to widows and supernumeraries who have been in active work thirty-nine years. The Rev. E. E. Jenkins was requested to prepare a draft of the pastoral address to the Methodist societies. The address of the Conference of Eastern British America was read by the secretary, and a committee appointed to prepare a reply.

At one o'clock the Conference entered on the question, "What ministers are now to be received into full connection?" There are over seventy young men to be ordained, having successfully passed their term of probation. Next, the names of those who remain on trial were called over. These form three classes, those who have been in the work three years, those have so employed two years, and those who are finishing their first year. The next business was the reception of the candidates for the ministry. There are about eighty in all. Dr. Rigg then asked the Conference to appoint a committee to consider what steps should be taken in respect to the Burials Bill now before Parliament, and the religious census proposed to be taken. The Rev. H. W. Holland suggested that the same committee should also direct its attention to the bill before the House, the provisions of which have reference to facilitating the purchase of glebes, &c., in Ireland. The committee was appointed. The sitting closed at half-past three o'clock.

On Thursday the Conference considered the question, "What ministers have died since the last Conference?" The list of the dead was somewhat long. The Rev. W. Arthur proposed a petition to Parliament in favour of a repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, which was seconded by the Rev. J. Smith, and cordially and unanimously adopted.

On Friday the Conference considered for some time the question of ministerial character, after which the President introduced to the Conference Bishop Simpson and Dr. Forster, the representatives from the American Methodist Episcopal General Conference. Their letters of introduction and the address of the American Conference were presented by them, and read by the Secretary. The address stated that there had been considerable increase since the last Conference assembled. They had now in what were once Slave States 9 annual Conferences, 373 ministers, and 90,071 members, showing an increase in the last four years of 2 annual conferences, 131 ministers, and 26,487 members. Coloured delegates had been received by the General Conference to equal rights and privileges with the others, and colour had been found no embarrassment. Several who were slaves when the war broke out were now ministers in connection with those Conferences, and several more were preparing for the ministry. The membership in connection with the General Conference amounted now to 1,146,081, being an increase of 222,786. During the Centenary year, a thank-offering had been collected from the Church, amounting to 8,339,662 dollars, while their anticipations had been that two millions might be raised. There was no agitation among them upon matters of doctrine, but there was with reference to other matters, which they believed would result in greater efficiency in the organisations of the Church. The address also referred to their reception of the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, as the representative of the British Methodists, and spoke of his services.

Bishop Simpson then delivered an interesting address, in the course of which he requested that there might be more free and frequent communion between the British and the American Conferences, and that delegates might be appointed to visit them. Efforts were being made in America to unite the different bodies of Methodists; a committee had been appointed to meet other committees for this end. They had proposed a reunion with the South, as, now that slavery had been abolished, there was no longer any difference between them. Some years would elapse, no doubt, before the bitterness engendered by the war had passed utterly away, but he believed that such union would be effected ere long. The bishop concluded by expressing his wishes that the Church in England might have great prosperity. Dr. Forster, the other member of the delegation, next addressed the Conference. He referred most especially to the educational and literary efforts of their Church. They published fifteen weekly publications in the interests of the Church, and a capital of 7,000,000 dollars invested in this undertaking. Their Sunday-schools were numerous and efficient, and they had about 1,200,000 children in them. They had eighty-five seminaries for young men and

women, to supplement the education given in the common schools of the country. They had twenty-three colleges, or Universities, so called; five of these at least would bear comparison in the training given with those of England. These were found of use to the Church, 400 of their ministers having been graduates of such colleges. They also had theological schools, or colleges for the training of their ministry, which were well endowed and most efficient.

These addresses were listened to with great interest by the Conference.

THE REV. R. MOFFAT.

The Rev. Robert Moffat (the veteran African missionary), at the request of the Rev. Henry Allon, addressed a few words to the congregation of Union Chapel, Islington, at the close of the morning service on Sunday. Mr. Moffat is in his seventy-sixth year, and has been in the missionary service for fifty-four years. He protested his continued devotion to that service, and said he could almost wish he were young again to work in it. "I would go," said he, "where Livingstone is, and beyond, and beyond, to preach of that Saviour who is able to save to the uttermost." Mr. Moffat explained that the state of his health had rendered it necessary that he should leave the African field of his much-loved labours. His bodily health is not bad, but he has been suffering much from sleeplessness, and he intimated that his mind was tired. Endeavours, he supposed, would be made to get him better. But he would not cease to labour even here for the good of the uncultured and ignorant tribes he had left in Bechuana, chiefly by preparing a dictionary of their language and superintending the translation of the Scriptures into their language. He averred that he had seen many proofs of the power of the Gospel in converting the heathen, and that churches and religious services were to be met with in all the villages and hamlets of the district in which he had laboured. Mr. Moffat's appearance leads to the hope that a rest and change of climate will greatly recruit his health.

On Monday the directors of the London Missionary Society, at their rooms in Blomfield-street, gave a very cordial reception to the Rev. Robert Moffat. After a devotional service, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Spence, Rev. F. Soden, and Rev. A. Macmillan, the Rev. Dr. Mullens, Foreign Secretary of the Society, briefly sketched Mr. Moffat's history, from his going out in 1816 until the present year. He paid an eloquent tribute to his labours in South Africa, where his influence had been felt by multitudes who had not as yet renounced heathenism. While gathering the few Mr. Moffat had been moulding the many, and the progress of the arts and sciences among the heathen was a testimony to the value of the missionary's work, although they made no profession of Christianity. Dr. Mullens also introduced to the directors Mr. Beynon, who had been a missionary in India forty-five years, and who until now had never set foot on English soil from the day he left it. The chairman of the board (Mr. James Hawkins) cordially shook hands with the two veteran missionaries, the meeting rising *en masse*. The Rev. J. C. Harrison and Rev. Dr. Stoughton having heartily re-echoed the welcome expressed by the chairman, Mr. Moffat, who was received with great cheering, said that he found it very difficult to say one word. The kindness he had received since his arrival had almost overpowered him. He had never expected to see England again, and his coming home he might almost say was opposed to his own feelings. He had gone out to Africa to live and die there, and he had always had the desire to leave his dust amongst those whom he had been the means of calling out of heathenism into the light of the Gospel. No one could imagine what a trial it was, both to himself and those with whom he had been so long associated, when he saw that it was his duty, after twenty-eight years' absence, to revisit England. On his way hither he had received the greatest kindness at Port Elizabeth, and Capetown, from every section of the Church, except Mahomedans. Now that he was in this country it would be a pleasure to him to do all in his power to further the missionary enterprise, and when he could speak English a little better, he hoped, not only to encourage the churches by his presence but by his words. Mr. Benyon sincerely thanked the directors for the welcome he had received.

The Rev. Samuel Sleath has resigned the pastorate of the Congregational church, Boughton, Chester.

The Rev. P. Thomson, A.M., has announced his purpose to resign the charge of the Congregational Church, Leominster, at Michaelmas next.

The State University of Missouri has conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. Samuel G. Green, B.A., President of Rawdon College, near Leeds.

The Evangelical Alliance Meeting at New York.—It is announced that no change will be made, in consequence of the war in Europe, in the arrangements for the Conference of the Evangelical Alliance, which will assemble in New York on September 22. Over 400 European delegates have signified their intention of attendance.

Reading.—The foundation-stone of a new Baptist chapel for the use of the church and congregation meeting in West-street Hall, under the pastorate of the Rev. C. M. Longhurst, was laid on Thursday afternoon, July 28, by P. Spokes, Esq., Mayor. This church was established by the Rev. J. H. Hinton, M.A., in the year 1867. The estimated cost of the building is 2,249*l.*, independent of the purchase of the land. A portion of Scripture was read and prayer offered by the Rev. J. Penrose, and addresses delivered by the Revs. C. M. Longhurst and T. C. Page. Mr. P. Davies presented a silver trowel to the Mayor, who expressed the pleasure he felt at taking such a prominent part in the undertaking, and congratulated the town upon participating in the labours of the Baptists since the year 1640, twenty-two years before that of any other Nonconformist society. He also considered it was a noteworthy feature in connection with this offshoot from the parent church that it was founded on the principle of open membership. After the laying of the stone contributions were deposited thereon. A tea was held in West-street Hall and a public meeting in the evening. Over 200*l.* were realised.

The Rev. F. Trestrail.—In an article on the Rev. F. R. Trestrail's retirement from the Secretariat of the Baptist Missionary Society, the *Freeman* says that "It was most fitting that this retirement should be signalised by some marked and adequate recognition of the value of the work done by Mr. Trestrail. The manner in which Mr. Trestrail had won the confidence and love of missionary brethren, the heartiness and frankness which characterised his intercourse with the members of the committee and ministers who had business to transact at the Mission House, the ability he brought to bear upon the difficult and delicate questions he was called to consider, the indefatigable industry which kept him at his post the year through, and dispensed with the annual holiday in the frequent absence of Dr. Underhill, and the consistency with which he reduced to practice the precepts of the One Master, fully justify the encomium in which the treasurer and secretary of the Testimonial Committee commend their project: 'In discharging his duties, piety and zeal have been equally manifested, combined with a prompt and uniform kindness that has often cheered the hearts of missionaries in their work, promoted the strength and interests of the society, and benefited beloved ministers at home, together with the churches in which they have laboured. He has ever sought to be the helper and friend of them all, and is therefore richly entitled to every mark of high regard and confidence.' If ever 'long and effectual services' merited suitable and generous recognition, those rendered by Mr. Trestrail deserve such an acknowledgment, and should receive it."

Kettering.—On Wednesday, July 27, a recognition service was held in Fuller Chapel, Kettering, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. John Brown Myers, late of Wolverhampton, as pastor. Mr. Myers commenced his labours on the last Sunday in May. Tea was provided, of which about 400 partook. At the evening meeting James Hobson, Esq., presided. The Revs. James Mursell, formerly minister of the church, F. W. Gotch, LL.D., president of the Baptist College, Bristol, J. P. Campbell, T. Toller, T. H. Holyoak, G. J. Jarman, J. Cave, J. Jenkinson, W. Clarkson, B.A., and other ministers from the neighbourhood, were present. The Rev. W. Robinson, of Cambridge, and J. T. Brown, of Northampton, through indisposition, were unable to attend. The meeting was commenced by the singing of a hymn, after which the Rev. J. Jenkinson offered prayer. The Chairman said, he himself remembered having sat under the ministry of five of God's servants who had discharged the high and onerous duties of the pastorate of that place. There was Andrew Fuller, a great and good man, who did a great work in Kettering and whom he always regarded with feelings of veneration. It was here Mr. Fuller laid the foundation of the Baptist Missionary Society, which had greatly prospered and which he trusted would prosper more and more. Then followed the Rev. John Keen Hall, whom he always thought of with delight and satisfaction. It pleased God to remove him at a comparatively early period of his ministry. Then there was his (the Chairman's) friend and relative, Mr. Robinson, of Cambridge, who had hoped to be present, but who had been absolutely forbidden to attend by his medical adviser. Mr. Robinson was succeeded by their respected friend Mr. Mursell, who had recently left them for another sphere of labour. It had now pleased the Almighty to raise up another minister amongst them, for which they felt glad and thankful, and they all earnestly hoped that he might continue amongst them for many years. J. D. Gotch, Esq., made a statement as to the steps which led the church in the choice of Mr. Myers as minister. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Rev. Dr. Gotch, James Mursell, J. P. Campbell, the pastor, and other gentlemen.

Colleges and Schools.

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL.

On Friday, July 29th, 1870, the annual distribution of prizes took place in the theatre of the City of London School. The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor occupied the chair. Amongst the distinctions obtained by the pupils during the past year, it appeared in the report that Mr. Henry Herbert Asquith had gained a scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, value 75*l.* a year, and that Mr. John Cox had gained a scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, value 75*l.* a year. Both of these gentlemen are Dissenters, and Mr. Cox is a member of the church at Devonshire-square. The Rev. E. A. Abbott, M.A., the head-master, in calling up Messrs. Asquith and Cox to receive from the hands of the Lord Mayor the scholarships which they had gained, said that he wished to observe that in the present state of legislation his two most promising pupils were precluded from holding fellowships at either Oxford or Cambridge, to which universities they were respectively going. He sincerely hoped that the law would speedily be so altered that he might have the pleasure in due time of congratulating these gentlemen—gentlemen in every sense of the word—on being elected fellows of their respective colleges.

MILL HILL SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes took place at the school on Tuesday afternoon last, nearly fifty pounds' worth of books, &c., being awarded. These included a prize for proficiency in Scripture knowledge, consisting of Bagster's Polyglot, in two volumes folio, in morocco, given by Benj. Scott, Esq., Chamberlain of the City of London, and won by Thring, of Plymouth; a silver watch, for the best writing, given by Thos. Scrutton, Esq., and won by Passmore, of Whetstone. The prize for the best Latin essay was won by Kitts, of Plymouth, who also obtained the Early English Text Society's prize, on the award of Mr. Furnivall and Dr. Morris, Kitts having already matriculated in the University of London, third in honours, and passed the first B.A. examination with third class honours in Latin, and first class in English. Other successful competitors were:—For English literature, Lewis, of Tenby; English verse, Bodley, of Hanley, and Downing, of Willesden; drawing, Curwen major, of Upper Clapton; Weymouth major, of Mill Hill; and Horne, of Hanley; good conduct, Van Someren minor, of Madras. There were, moreover, the prizes for general efficiency, twenty-four handsomely bound volumes, presented to the upper boys (about one-third of each form); and the *in memoriam* prizes, to commemorate the success of the five boys who have gained during the year some of the scholarships tenable at the school.

SCHOOL FOR SONS AND ORPHANS OF MISSIONARIES.

The annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of this institution was held at the school-house, Blackheath, on Thursday, July 28th. In the absence, through illness, of the treasurer, H. W. Dobell, Esq., the chair was taken by Nehemiah Griffiths, Esq. Amongst those present were the Revs. Dr. Mullens, Joseph Beazley, R. H. Marten, B.A., W. Jones, W. Brockway, and J. Mackenzie; Drs. Underhill, Lockhart, and Tomkins; Messrs. Blomfield, Hartley, Lewis, Walkden, &c. Additional interest was given to the proceedings by the presence of the veteran missionary, the Rev. Robert Moffat, whose entrance was the signal for enthusiastic applause. After a hymn had been sung, prayer was offered by the Rev. W. Jones, of Coimbatoor.

Mr. W. G. Lemon, the secretary, read the report and cash balance for the year 1869. From the report it appeared that the number of boys in the school is sixty—sons of missionaries of different denominations. The school examinations have been conducted by J. L. Pulley, Esq., LL.D., in classics; the Rev. J. R. Goulty, B.A., in mathematics; the Rev. T. Verrall, B.A., in English literature and Scripture; the Rev. A. A. Petavel, in French. The school has taken a high position at the Local University Examinations. At the Oxford Local, held in 1869, eight candidates were sent in, all of whom passed, six gaining distinction as under:—

Seniors A. A.—F. W. Kolbé, 1st Div., 1st class honours in mathematics and 2nd class in classics. J. S. Brown, 1st Div., 1st class honours in mathematics and 2nd class in classics. J. B. Pettigrew, 2nd Div.

Juniors.—M. J. M. Hells, 1st Div., placed first of all candidates examined in London. J. G. Gubb, 2nd Div. P. Houghton, 2nd Div.

Other honours have been gained at Cambridge and at London University by former pupils of the school. The finances of the institution show a small balance in hand at the close of the year, but it was stated that this was owing to special efforts made last year, and that in order to maintain the efficiency of the school about 200*l.* per annum is required in additional subscriptions.

The prizes having been delivered by the Rev. J. Mullens, D.D., secretary of the London Missionary Society, an address to the boys was delivered by

The Rev. Robert Moffat, of Kuruman, in the course of which he said it was very pleasant for him to see what he had seen that evening, and to hear what he had heard. To use a proverb common among the Bechuanas, "It was enough to make the heart white as milk." He was an old man, and had seen many things from which he had learned much, but the scene brought before him that evening had made him wish that he was again a little boy. A few days since, shortly before leaving the ship which brought him to this country, he had observed on the deck an old man teaching a little boy to read. As he looked upon them thus employed he could not help uttering, half aloud—

"Delightful task, to train the youthful mind."

When the old man looking up said, "Not such a delightful task as you seem to think!" Now he was prepared to admit that education had its difficulties, but yet those who had the charge of youths, and to whom was committed the education of such boys as were there, were indeed engaged in a noble work. They are now sowing the seeds of future knowledge, and had every reason to expect good fruit. He was also reminded of the words of the poet—

"'Tis education forms the tender mind,
For as the twig is bent so is the tree inclined."

He had seen many kinds of trees all requiring more or less of training and pruning, and he had noticed

boys and girls allowed to grow up without such training. They were wild and unable to control themselves. They needed, as boys, to have evil habits checked—bad dispositions lopped off. When there is no such discipline the child grows out of all form, and as an untrained tree either bears no fruit or nauseous fruit, so such a child would grow up disobedient, and the slave to bad companions. He would urge the boys to use well their time, because things learned in youth were well remembered. It would be more difficult to learn by-and-bye, and besides what was afterwards learned was more readily forgotten. It would be a great delight to see many of those boys becoming missionaries in the place of their fathers, but they ought to become much more efficient, considering how much greater advantages they enjoyed in their early education. He would often visit them, as he was not yet returning to Africa, and it had given him very much pleasure to see all he had seen that evening.

The Rev. J. MULLENS then addressed a few words to the boys, and the proceedings terminated with the benediction.

Correspondence.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE EDUCATION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I have no desire to refer to the closing debates on the Education Bill for the purpose of reviving what was unpleasant, but I think it is our duty as Nonconformists to express our thanks to those who, in order to enforce our principles, or at least give utterance to them, in the House of Commons, have incurred the anger of some, and misrepresentation by others, both in the House and in the Press. And not only so, but, if we are to prepare for the future, we ought not too lightly and speedily to dismiss from our minds present events. For myself, I feel that we are greatly indebted to Mr. Richard and to Mr. Miall for their manly speeches in the House. My only regret is that similar speeches were not made long before. I cannot help feeling that, if Nonconformists had spoken out sooner, standing firmly and unmistakeably on their principles, they would have commanded much more attention and respect than has been accorded during the present session. I cannot help saying that I have felt all the way through that, in this question, there has been more trimming, or at least hesitation, than Nonconformists have displayed for a long time past.

Unfortunately for us, also, two or three of the most prominent among us (arising from the accident of their position), it is to be feared by their communications, have betrayed both ourselves and our principles to a most serious extent. Either from this circumstance, or some unaccountable cause, Mr. Forster, from whom we might naturally have expected better things, and who, indeed, has had our confidence to an extent utterly unwarranted as events have proved, has been enabled (to use a vulgar term) completely to sell us, and to play into the hands of the Church and Tory party, to an extent which has delighted them exceedingly. They appear to be unable to find language sufficiently eulogistic to express their gratitude to him. Of course, these same persons cheered Mr. Gladstone's unwise remarks last week. Their work has been well done for them, and they have had the sense to appreciate it, and to support those who have done it.

Notwithstanding, however, all our disappointment and all our regret, the past is gone, and, as Mr. Miall said, our wisdom will be to prepare for the future. Our duty will be to show that we understand our principles, and that we do not hold them lightly. Some of us, as in this city, for instance, were greatly surprised and disappointed to find that our Liberal members voted against Mr. Richard's motion, although they have always professed to hold the principles embodied in it emphatically. It appears to me that, however unpleasant it may be, we must make our disappointment known; and we must let it be understood that we do not deem it unreasonable to expect that on important measures our representatives shall support our principles, at least when those principles are in exact accord with their own well-known and often-expressed opinions, and especially when they (as, indeed, is always the case) simply demand justice and equality in national legislation. As Mr. Miall pointed out, the results of the present session are to us, as Nonconformists, highly unsatisfactory, indeed, they appear to me to amount to a reaction as compared with the great work of the previous session. I cannot help looking forward with apprehension in some respects to the future. I cannot see how, with any consistency whatever, those professed Nonconformists who supported denominationalism and concurrent endowment in the English measure can oppose it in the Irish measure, or how Mr. Forster, upon whom unmeasured eulogy is, even by Nonconformists, reaped in recognition of his handiwork, can be expected to act differently with regard to an Irish bill when introduced. Our past division of opinion and supineness will render the performance of our duty more difficult for the future, but it is to be hoped we shall at once brace ourselves for the task. I have confidence in the soundness of heart and earnestness of the great bulk of Nonconformists. I sincerely trust that our leaders will for the future render it impossible to charge them with uttering any uncertain sound. If they lead the way with courage to carry out fearlessly, clearly, and completely, our grand old principles, the people will assuredly rally round them, and there can be no fear for the result.

Sir, respectfully yours,
WM. WARBURTON.

Manchester, 30th July, 1870.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—What is the duty and what should be the policy of Nonconformists at the present crisis, are questions the sooner they are answered with distinctness the better. As regards the conduct of the Government on the education question, some of the Nonconformist organs even now seem disposed to extend to them a large amount of charity. The Government may make the most of the fact that we have not been quite united, but that will be to little purpose in the face of the unanimity shown on the vital principle embodied in Mr. Jacob Bright's amendment. Turn it about as we will, the fact remains that our leaders in the House have been snubbed, our representations disregarded, and "here we are again" thrown on our backs: but though in that position—as every policeman could tell us—we are not without the power of cutting such capers and effecting such results as would prove anything but comfortable to those who come in the way. Would it not be better far that the present discontent take form and shape than that a false peace should be proclaimed? and better far that the Liberal party—as a party—perish, than that liberal principles should be sacrificed: and may we not say, better far that for a while longer even let that ignorance disfigure us, than that in attempting to remove it we plant the germ of what in its fruits may prove more damaging to the nation's best interests than ignorance itself? Nobody better than Mr. Gladstone knows the meaning of the Education Bill as regards Ireland, and who better than himself could have satisfied Mr. Winterbotham that there had been no "secret treaty" with the Popish leaders there on that subject had it been *convenient* to do so. Or again, as regards England, what may it develope if permitted to work? Taking Lord Shaftesbury as a witness as to the extent of the ecclesiastical field the Ritualistic or Popish party have possession of, and the Marquis of Salisbury as a witness as regards their manner of cultivating it, we have little difficulty in arriving at a conclusion as to its meaning. Now are we to suppose that Mr. Gladstone cannot see this? Not a bit of it, he is far too shrewd a man. Nor can we get rid of the difficulty by putting the blame on Mr. Forster, since he would go out of sight without his chief. Be it as it may, we are forced knew to consider the "No Popery" cry that was raised against the Premier at the election, and which *Nonconformists prevented from taking effect* by their charitable incredulity. Mr. Gladstone *then* saw the fitness of quoting their opinions and pointing to their support. Now, in return for this support and in connection with the same great vital principle that won for him such success, we have a "burst of oratory" advising Mr. Miall to withhold his support if he cannot conscientiously render it, &c. Now if this advice be for such as Mr. Miall to act upon in the House, it is equally the duty of the thousands who think with him to *do the same out of the House*; and what this would do for the Liberal party the Premier needs not be told. Can it be doubted that there is scarcely a constituency in England liberal enough to return a Liberal member, where, if Nonconformists simply stood aside at an election, the return of such member would be an impossibility? Yet this is the party to be shoved aside in order to catch Tory votes; and who can doubt but that these same Tories are now laughing in their sleeves in beholding what they have gained at our expense, besides having the distant prospect of still more gains by the very *divisions in the Liberal ranks which have been created as it were to please them*? Was there ever such a short-sighted policy? Doubtless there is one man who can yet put the party right and get the mischievous work undone, and thus alone save the Government from some of the effects of their greatest blunder; and that man is John Bright—to that end we may well desire that he may speedily be heard of again. However that may be, the sentiment expressed not long ago by the President of the Congregational Union shows itself up clearer and clearer, viz.—that late experiences must teach us not to trust too much to *any Government, but rely on ourselves*. We may now ask ourselves how we are to ensure that our representations are to be regarded, and something like justice done, not alone by exhibiting a charity that "*hopeth* all things," as Mr. Forster would counsel us, but by making Liberal members of Parliament understand that Nonconformists have a power at the polling booth, and that Liberal Governments are to reflect Liberal opinions, and not "sell" their friends to please their foes when great principles are at stake, as such a course will assuredly be found not to pay in the long run. Whatever the meaning of the Gladstone-Forster move may have been, one thing is certain—unless Nonconformists are unworthy their ancestry, it is bound to fail, since they hold the balance, and no Liberal Government can stand without their support. They ask no favour, else their position would be as ignoble as that of those who do. They merely ask that the rights of conscience be respected towards all, and that there be no State support whatever to any system, be it Roman, Anglican, or anything else; and in these days of disestablishment, what can be more reasonable, then, that under the name of education they protest against State aid to Popery, however cunningly it may be contrived.

I am, yours truly,
J. HAYWARD.

Merlin Haven, Wotton-under-Edge, July 30, 1870.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The advanced Liberals owe you hearty thanks for the honest and timely warning which you gave the Government on the third reading of the Education Bill. It had been needed had not Mr. Cowper-Temple's undignified taunts merited it. Your speech stung the Premier to the quick, but its sting lay in its truth. However unwilling Mr. Gladstone may now be to acknowledge his obligations to the advanced Liberals, it is very certain that but for them and their exertions, he would not now be in the position which he occupies as the recognised head of the Liberal party in the Commons.

Mr. Gladstone's position is strong—strong as long as the Liberal party is united, and acknowledges his leadership. Let him disunite that party, and he is again in the hands, and at the mercy, of the Tories, who owe him a grudge that they will not be slow to pay the very first opportunity.

When the Premier rose, with such imprudent and untimely warmth, in reply, he carried his bill, but he damaged his position, giving joy to the Tories, but causing many a Liberal to hang down his head in grief. When, waxing warm in his rash indignation, unmingled with one single conciliatory expression, he bid you "for God's sake!"—an irreverence that one hardly expected from the present Premier—to "withdraw support from the Government the moment" you consider that you cannot consistently render it any longer, he addressed you not as a single individual, but as the representative of the earnest Nonconformity of the nation.

The party whom you represent in Parliament may not be formidable for numbers, though in this respect it is far from being insignificant. Apart from John Bright, what M.P. has a more numerous following than yourself? Mr. Gladstone is, however, too much of a strategist and tactician not to know, in his cooler moments, that a body numerically small may be morally and politically powerful. Their organisation, their sternness of purpose, the strength of their convictions, the harmony of their object with all truth, and with Divine truth in particular, the currents of thought rising into flow wherever intellect is cultivated, may all contribute to make a party comparatively small in numbers, powerful in action, as were Oliver's Ironsides in the Parliamentary forces of yore. In challenging you, "for God's sake," to leave him, he has challenged the thousands of Nonconformists in the empire, who constitute your following, to leave him also. Were we to do so, where would he be? Owing, as he does, the passing of his sectarian Education Bill to the Conservatives, he would again hold office, if he held it all, on sufferance.

Nonconformists are still practically ignored in Parliament and by Government. Many will say "No, no," to this averment. Prior to, and during the progress of, an election, Nonconformists are caressed, and flattered, and cajoled. Their praises are heard on every hustings, and are published everywhere by the Liberal Press. When their aid had been secured, and by that aid Liberals enter Parliament, the ladder sooner or later, with more or less of unceremoniousness, is kicked aside, for it is no longer wanted—for the present.

Never did any man, much less Mr. Gladstone, make a more reckless and wild assertion than when he said that you and your party "look too much to a section of the comm unity, and not to the entire body of the nation." What was the Premier thinking of? Is he another illustration of the old and true maxim, *Ira furor brevis*? When did you, when did the Nonconformists, ever ask Parliament to legislate for them as a sect? No, Sir, the Nonconformists have ever sought at the hands of the Legislature that which Mr. Gladstone affirms is the aim of his Government—"no mean, no narrow, no local measures" with "no other object than the welfare of the empire at large." If they wish the suffrage extended, they wish it extended to all. If they desire burial-grounds thrown open, the public, shocked by the indecent scandals that occur through the bigotry of some Episcopalians, would be benefited. If they strive to remove all partial barriers in the way of a University education and University advantages, it is that men of no religion, as well as men of their religion, may have an equal opportunity of sharing in their privileges. And when they oppose to the last the sectarian Education Bill of the present Government, it is because that bill is framed to favour an already over-petted religious sect.

Nonconformists have again and again shown themselves self-sacrificing. It is possible that this tension may be carried one point too far. Liberals at the hustings, and Governments praying for support, are not always faithful in the one case to their pledges, when they take their seats in the Commons; and in the other case, when they find themselves holding the seals of office and backed by an overwhelming majority, careful to realise the hopes which in the foraging season they unquestionably have raised. It may become necessary yet for the Nonconformists to raise, as they have never before raised, the rallying cry, "Measures, not men."

It is certain that Nonconformists, who were warm admirers of Mr. Gladstone, and who worked hard for him in the late electioneering contests, have already, in some instances, declared that their confidence in him is seriously weakened, and some I have heard say that they care not how soon he is out of office, for in all probability the country will yet be indebted to the Tories—though these will only act liberally to dish the Whigs again—for legislative measures which will secure ultimately the triumph of civil and religious liberty. It certainly is hard to hold office and to maintain political innocence and purity unsmeared.

The advanced Liberals can much better do without Mr. Gladstone than Mr. Gladstone can well afford to snub them.

I am, yours truly,
W. GRIFFITH.

Derby, Aug. 1, 1870.

*** While inserting the above letters, we do not think it desirable to continue a correspondence on the subject.

THE NONCONFORMIST EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Committee held this afternoon at the Trevelyan Hotel, the Rev. T. Willis, M.A., in the chair, the following resolution was passed unanimously, and the Committee will be much obliged if you can find space for it in your next edition.

Dear Sir, very truly yours,
WM. WARBURTON, Hon. Sec.

Manchester, July 29, 1870.

"This Committee expresses its deep regret that the Elementary Education Bill recently passed through the House of Commons is not in accordance with the principles of religious equality, and this Committee hereby tenders its thanks to Messrs. Richard, Winterbotham, Miall, and those gentlemen who have striven to oppose concurrent endowment and to secure for the country undenominational education."

HARROW SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Sir,—In the *Daily Telegraph's* report of the debate in the House of Commons, as it appeared in that paper last Wednesday, upon the motion of Mr. Stevenson, as to the qualification for the trusteeships of Harrow and Winchester Schools, the Solicitor-General is stated to have said "the House of Commons could not change the law, and the Commissioners were at liberty to disregard any resolution which this House adopted."

It appears that the Solicitor-General is one of the Commissioners appointed by the Public Schools Act passed in 1868. This Act was passed in order to separate seven of the largest public schools from all others, and, in fact, to confirm the custom so long practised in them, of educating noblemen's and gentlemen's sons to the almost total exclusion of poor foundationers. It is true that in Clause 14 of the Act, the governing bodies of Harrow and Rugby had the power of submitting to the Special Commissioners appointed under the Act, a "scheme or schemes for appropriating a suitable part of the revenues of those foundations to the promotion of education within the parish of Harrow," and also "any such scheme may, if it be thought expedient, provide for the maintenance within the locality of a separate school either in connection, or not in connection, with the existing school."

The object, therefore, of separating these seven large schools from all others, of having Church of England trustees alone, and of erecting separate schools for the foundationers, is simply to make these schools feeders of the Universities, and so to keep the highest offices and the various foundation emoluments of Oxford and Cambridge, strictly in the hands of members of the Church of England.

When I was at Harrow, some two years ago, I found there were only twenty-three parishioners' sons on the books, and that they were taught in an old coach-house, away from the splendid buildings in which the sons of the rich were taught fully a quarter to half a mile off, and that a charge of 5*l.* per annum was laid upon the parents of these twenty-three boys, although the founder ordered that boys of his kin, and of the "*most poor sort* of boys, born within the said parish of Harrow," should be taught therein free.

Now, if it is necessary, in order to keep up the deprivation of poor native boys of Harrow of their free education, to have Church of England men alone as trustees thereof, the sooner the election of trustees is placed in the hands of the inhabitants the better.

But to say that seven Commissioners are paramount to the House of Commons is monstrous! and to say that "the House of Commons could not change the law," is doubly monstrous!

Stranger still it is that the Solicitor-General should say that "these schools partook of a Church of England character," when he knows, or ought to know, that the statutes thereof do not contain any rule as to the religious qualification or otherwise of the trustees, and so far from it being a rule, the schoolmasters themselves are known to be averse to such an illiberal proposition being now established.

Mr. Gladstone asserted during the debate that Harrow was beyond all question a Church of England school! Who made it so? Certainly not the founder, as he says nothing about it in his charter; all he says being that the "keepers and governors" of the school shall do so and so, never touching upon a religious qualification as to their office, no, nor even of the scholars.

The real cause of this old-fashioned opinion that certain schools should have Church of England trustees is the love of the patronage and the disposal of the revenues thereto attached, and subservient. Once throw the trusteeships and the scholarships and fellowships open to all denominations, and talent of all sorts will flow in; and when that is so let us hope that the trustees will obey the founder's will and orders, viz., that the sons of the *most poor sort* of the parishioners shall be admitted into the school. *Fiat justitia.*

I remain, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,
GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, July 30, 1870.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following are lists of the candidates who have passed the recent examinations in Arts and Science:—

FIRST B.A. EXAMINATION.—PASS EXAMINATION.

First Division.—D. Agate, University and Manchester New College; R. S. Ager, Commercial School, Bedford, and private study; F. Andrews, private study; J. M. Angus, Clare College, Cambridge; G. Atkins, St. Mark's College, Chelsea; G. J. T. Barrett, Stonyhurst College; T. Bennetts, private study; J. B. Blackburn, private study; W. Blyth, private study; J. Boardman, private study; R. Booth, Regent's Park College; A. H. F. Boughey, Trinity College, Cambridge; A. K. Brown, Flounders College; J. Bullock, Spring-hill College; F. E. Carter, private tuition; L. C. Casartelli, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; F. C. Champion, King's College; T. Cheese, private study; Hon. L. H. H. Clifford, Stonyhurst College; J. S. Cooper, private study; J. A. Corbishley, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; W. R. Cox, private study; S. Crawley, private study; J. H. Crosby, New Kingswood School, Bath; F. E. Dembski, private study; C. W. Early, City of London School and private tuition; G. Emery, private study; T. R. Evans, Cheshunt College; P. B. Fearon, University College; G. Field, private study; S. B. Flaxman, private tuition; E. C. Foà, University College School and Rev. P. Magnus; G. Fox, private study; J. W. L. Glaisher, Trinity College, Cambridge; A. J. Gostick, private study; T. Graham, private study; R. Hall, Waterloo School; A. Harré, private study; J. B. Hellier, New Kingswood School and private study; J. Hewlett, private study; R. D. Hicks, Grammar School, Bristol; R. E. Holloway, Cleveden College, Northampton; W. Hugh, University College and private study; J. N. Keynes, University College; H. M. Kisch, Trinity College, Cambridge; H. Lamb, Trinity College, Cambridge; E. M. Langley, Comm. School, Bedford, and private study; E. M. Lynch, University College; R. McKie, private study; H. Major, private study; T. Milner, Rotherham College; A. de M. Mocatta, University College; J. S. Morley, Rotherham College; R. Mullock, Wharfdale College; C. Parsons, University College; J. M. Pask, University College and private study; F. W. Payne, Brighton Grammar School; R. W. Perks, King's College; H. Plumley, private study; A. A. Prankerd, Liverpool College; W. Preston, Wesley College, Sheffield; J. G. Richardson, Trinity College, Cambridge; J. Robson, private study; H. L. T. Sack, private study; J. T. Sale, Regent's Park College; E. A. Sonnenstein, University College; P. F. S. Stokes, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; G. Tarleton, Stonyhurst College; N. Tebbutt, private study; J. Temperly, private study; C. B. Vansittart, private tuition; H. S. Wilkinson, Owen's College; T. G. Williams, private study; E. Worsdell, Flounders College; H. Worsley, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw.

Second Division.—H. W. Andras, private study; J. (A) Bailey, Regent's Park, College; R. H. Battye, King's College; W. P. P. Caldwell, Hawthorn Hall; J. Clarke, Western College, Plymouth; W. Cook, private study; J. Craig, private study; A. Driver, Owens College; W. Edwards, Pontypool College; W. English, private study; W. D. Gainsford, private study; R. M. Harris, Jews' Free School; G. A. Jones, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; H. S. Little, private study; P. McDonald, private study; H. Mare, private study; J. V. Milne, private study; A. G. Mortimer, private study; W. Nixon, private study; G. H. Norris, private tuition; E. R. Palmer, Cheshunt College; A. Ralli, King's College; J. Richardson, private study; R. Spooner, Wesleyan College, Headingly; C. J. Teevan, Stonyhurst College; P. Turnbull, private study; R. Whattam, private study.

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC (M.B.) EXAMINATION.—PASS EXAMINATION.

First Division.—E. C. Baber, St. George's Hospital; A. B. Barrow, King's College; G. H. Batterbury, King's College; P. H. Carpenter, University College and Royal School of Mines; E. Crétin, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; H. J. E. Groves, Guy's Hospital; H. Hetley, Guy's Hospital; C. R. B. Keetley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. Kennedy, B.A., Manchester Royal School of Medicine; J. Lewtas, Liverpool School of Medicine; J. Magrath, University College; B. M. S. Roth, University College; J. Shuter, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; S. H. Vines, Guy's Hospital; E. W. White, King's College.

Second Division.—A. Dodson, Queen's College, Birmingham; G. Garlick, University College; F. G. Hamilton, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; V. D. Harrison, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. A. Hullard, University College; A. H. Jones, private study; W. H. Lamb, Guy's Hospital; T. E. Maclean, University College; E. M. Madden, King's College; T. S. Morley, private study; W. J. Notley, B.A., University of Edinburgh; F. J. M. Palmer, Guy's Hospital; H. E. Price, University and Regent's Park Colleges; J. A. Rigby, Guy's Hospital; T. K. Rogers, University College; T. H. Sawtell, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; R. H. A. Schofield, B.A., Owen's College; J. W. Taylor, Charing Cross Hospital; E. Wackerbath, University College.

FIRST B.SC. EXAMINATION—PASS EXAMINATION.

First Division.—P. H. Carpenter, University College, and R. Sch. of Mines; T. Hick, B.A., private study; J. L. Lowe, King's College; L. Lyell, University College; B. M. S. Roth, University College; R. F. Scott, University College.

Second Division.—C. S. M'Lean, B.A., Wesleyan College, Taunton; J. Monckman, private study; A. E. Price, University and Regent's Park Colleges; W. W. Rowland, B.A., University College.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WAR.

The announcement that the Foreign Secretary would on Thursday evening make a statement in regard to the war naturally brought together a considerable audience in the House of Lords. Confining himself to the papers already published, Lord Granville gave a brief summary of the negotiations, attributing the final outbreak of war to the misunderstandings as to the incident at Ems and the hasty and imperfect telegrams describing it. The position of England was, he said, very like that of trying to prevent a fire with inflammable materials all around, and matches ready to ignite. He felt, therefore, that it was not the moment to go into any elaborate inquiries as to who had brought the materials, or the rights and wrongs of the case, but that our duty was to endeavour as soon as possible to remove those materials and to prevent one of the greatest calamities which could happen to the world. As an illustration of his desire to be strictly impartial, he mentioned that the Marquis of Lavalette had complained that he was "cold, very cold," while Count Bernstoff had been equally little satisfied with his refusal to construe the duties of neutrals in the way Prussia desired. "I am aware," he added, with much dignity and firmness, "of the great responsibility which weighs upon Her Majesty's Government. I know how bound we are to observe every event as it goes on, and I believe your Lordships will agree with me that it is right that we should abstain from all specific declarations of what we should or should not do in any possible contingency. I am quite convinced that in order to preserve the honour of this country, and in order to be of the greatest use in restoring peace, if such restoration is possible, the best course we can pursue is in words and in attitude to maintain a dignified and calm reserve." Lord Granville was warmly cheered on sitting down and also during his speech.

Lord Malmesbury expressed general approval of the policy of the Government, recommended that, in view of possible contingencies, we should get our army and navy into good order, and hinted that it would soon be desirable to have further explanations from the Government as to the *projet de traité*. In his opinion the war was a foregone conclusion with both parties from the first, and would have broken out all the same whether the incident at Ems had happened or not. Lord Russell also urged that we should quietly and without ostentation put our army and navy on a footing to meet any emergency that might arise. From his personal knowledge of the King of Prussia, he was sure that his kind temper, his love of peace, and his gallant behaviour on all occasions, would always induce him to act as became a prince, a soldier, and a gentleman. If it was a question of argument and political discussion, the King was surely quite right to say that it was one to be discussed between the Ambassador and the Minister.

The Life Assurance Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Clerical Disabilities Bill passed through committee, notwithstanding some fears expressed by Lord Beauchamp, the Bishop of Ely, and others as to the temptation which would be offered to young men to take orders lightly, if they knew they could at any time throw them off.

INDIAN FINANCE.

The Duke of Argyll made his annual statement of the financial condition of India. From this it appears that the original estimate for the past year gave a surplus of 52,000*l.*, but in September some material errors were discovered, the result of which was to convert this small surplus into a serious deficit of 1,500,000*l.* At once the Government set about making provision for this adverse state of things by reducing expenditure on the one hand and increasing taxation on the other; and last week a telegram from the Governor-General announced that not only had the deficit disappeared, but there was a surplus of from 100,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* The discrepancies in the estimates had been attributed in some quarters to Sir Richard Temple, but the fact was that they were really traceable to the elements of uncertainty which pervaded the finances of India. But for the outlay on public works there would be a large surplus in the revenue at its present amount of 48¼ millions; and he hoped that the increase on the salt duty and the income-tax would be of only temporary duration. A discussion followed, in which Lords Salisbury, Lyveden, and St. Lawrence took part; but so little interest was manifested by the House in the matter that the audience did not exceed a half score.

THE PROJECTED TREATY.

On Friday Lord Malmesbury again expressed his anxiety that their Lordships should have some information respecting the projected treaty between France and Prussia, published in the *Times*. It had been followed up by a letter from the Prussian Government to Count Bernstorff of an extraordinary if not an appalling character. This official paper, which he read, accused the French Government of having been in a time of profound peace ready to join Prussia in an attack upon an independent State, which might be described as the most innocent and quiet kingdom in Europe. There must have been some *pour-parlers* before this treaty could have been penned, and it was at least singular that nothing was said of Holland, and that Belgium was alone mentioned. It was only due to the Emperor at the present moment to remember that he had in several instances, which he recapitulated, behaved with loyalty to this country. Prussia had also

always been in friendly alliance with this country, and it was with the greatest pain and difficulty that he could bring himself to believe these mutual accusations.

Lord GRANVILLE had expressed his conviction that after the publication of the alleged treaty in the *Times* both the Governments concerned would be desirous to offer the fullest explanation. After pointing out the inconvenience of carrying on the history of these negotiations by daily question and answer in Parliament, he read a translation of the telegram received by Count Bernstorff, differing in many important respects from the version published in the newspapers of yesterday. Reserving his own opinion as to the statements made to him, he asked permission to read a despatch which it was his intention to send to Lord Lyons that night, embodying the explanations made to him on the subject of the projected treaty by M. de Lavalette. The French Ambassador, it stated, called upon him on Thursday to communicate a despatch from the Duc de Gramont, who, recapitulating many occasions from 1865 downwards when M. de Bismark had suggested an increase of France at the expense of neighbouring French-speaking States, went on to say that the Government of the Emperor declined to listen to these proposals, concluding with an emphatic assurance to the English Government that the initiative was entirely taken by the Prussian Cabinet. M. de Lavalette also informed Lord Granville that he had been instructed to tell him that the document in the handwriting of M. de Benedetti was written by him under the dictation of Count Bismark, who wished to entangle the French Government in a conspiracy against the liberties of Belgium, and that then, as at other times, the scheme was positively rejected. M. de Lavalette added that this was not to be considered as the answer to the telegram from Berlin, but that further information would be afforded by his Government.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

In committee on the Education Bill, Lord RUSSELL moved an amendment in favour of the appointment of a Minister of Education, but was persuaded by Lord DE GREY, who agreed to the proposal in the abstract but thought it premature, to withdraw it.

On Clause 7 (regulations for the conduct of public elementary schools), Lord CARNARVON moved to insert words enacting that no child should be required as a condition to attend Sunday-school or receive religious instruction when it should be contrary to the wish of his parent or guardian. He advocated the amendment on the ground of fairness to the schools of the National Society. Lord NELSON said that unless the amendment were adopted the Church of England schools would be required to put on their walls a notice that no child would be bound to do what by the rules of these schools every child was obliged to agree to. The Bishop of CARLISLE said that as the clause stood the children on saints' days and Church holidays could take their hats or bonnets and leave the school, whether their parents consented or not, and they would be protected by the Act of Parliament in so doing. Lord DE GREY said that the point just raised should receive consideration. He frankly admitted that there had been a great deal of exaggeration in regard to the religious difficulty, but the conscience clause had received very careful consideration in the other House, and he trusted that the amendment would not be insisted on. The Bishop of EXETER did not think it would be wise to call upon parents by Act of Parliament to make some distinct objection to attendance at Sunday-school, or during religious instruction. A poor man would feel great hesitation in coming forward publicly to make such an objection, and he suggested that the clause should run that no parent should be required to cause his child to attend Sunday-school, &c., as a condition of being admitted. Lord SALISBURY said this was not a question between Churchmen and Dissenters. What he objected to was the absurdity of proclaiming in a school that children should choose for themselves whether they would attend religious instruction. The LORD CHANCELLOR said he had been connected with the National Society for more than half his life, and he felt certain that this clause had not been directed against the schools of that society. The clause had been the subject of compromise in the other House, and he trusted it would not be disturbed in a House in which the Nonconformists were not represented. Lord SHAFTESBURY confessed that this was an unsatisfactory compromise, but it was an inevitable one, and if the amendment were adopted the whole subject would be reopened, and the bill would be lost. In that case he felt certain that the next measure would be one of purely secular instruction. Lord DE GREY expressed his willingness to amend the clause so that no child should be required to attend any religious observance or instruction "from which he should be withdrawn by his parents." Lord CARNARVON accepted the amennment.

The Bishop of GLOUCESTER moved the omission of the words providing that the religious instruction should be "either at the beginning or at the end, or at the beginning and the end of such school meeting." The Bishop of LINCOLN supported the amendment. The Bishop of EXETER thought it would be inexpedient to disturb the compromise arrived at in the other House when the inconvenience was so small. The amendment was opposed by Lord DE GREY, who gave explanations which removed the objections entertained by the Duke of Richmond to the clause. The Bishop of GLOUCESTER accordingly accepted the advice of the Duke, and withdrew his amendment. The Bishop of MANCHESTER asked how these new elementary schools were to be provided with competent teachers, without which no school could obtain a public grant. Lord DE GREY said that the bill did not deal with training schools, but this subject would receive the careful consideration of the Government. Other amendments were proposed, but withdrawn or postponed, and the conscience clause was then agreed to, with the amendment accepted by Lord DE GREY.

An amendment on Clause 17, proposed by Lord LYTTELTON, to prevent the school boards from remitting the whole of the school fees of any child, was opposed by the Duke of ARGYLL—who said that a similar provision had worked well in Scotland—and negatived.

On Clause 23, the Duke of RICHMOND objected to give such extensive powers to alter the regulations affecting the management, and the clause was struck out.

On Clause 25, enabling free schools to be established in special cases, Lord LYTTELTON renewed his objection, and said that children who required gratuitous education ought to receive it in the industrial schools. He moved to omit the clause, and was supported by the Bishop of CARLISLE. On a division the clause was struck out by 65 votes against 61.

On Clause 73, regulating the attendance of the children at school, a discussion arose on the power given to the school board to require children between five and thirteen to attend school. Lord SHAFTESBURY moved to substitute four and ten respectively, for reasons bearing on juvenile employment. Lords SALISBURY and LYVEDEN, on the other hand, preferred that children should begin at seven instead of five, and the Duke of RUTLAND agreed in recommending ten as the limit instead of thirteen, on account of the importance of the labour of children in the agricultural districts. Lord DE GREY, however, urged their Lordships to adhere to the clause, and the several amendments altering the age having been negatived, the clause was agreed to.

On the second schedule, regulating the election of members of a school board, the Duke of RICHMOND said he thought the ballot scheme by no means applicable to the bill. He had no objection that the poll should be taken in the metropolis by ballot, in accordance with the principles of the Metropolis Management Act, but he moved an amendment that in all other districts the poll should be taken in the same manner as the poll for burgesses and ratepayers was usually taken. Lord DE GREY defended the ballot as the most convenient machinery of election, and as being likely to relieve voters from the pressure of political or religious party. After a few words from Lord SHAFTESBURY, who regretted that the mischievous word "ballot" had ever been introduced into an Education Bill, the House divided, when the Duke of Richmond's amendment was carried by 72 to 53 votes. The schedule as amended was then agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be reported.

Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes past one.

On Monday the Irish Land Bill and other bills received the Royal Assent by commission.

Lord RUSSELL laid on the table a bill enabling the Government to embody and call out the Militia. The LORD CHANCELLOR remarked that the bill had been brought in without any notice having been given to the Government.

The Army Enlistment Bill passed through committee.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

On the report being received, Lord DE GREY, in answer to Lord Russell, explained that if a School Board committed any act of default the Education Department might either dissolve the board and direct another election, or substitute a board named by themselves. On Clause 7 (Conscience Clause), Lord DE GREY proposed an amendment to meet the objection of the Bishop of Carlisle, who thought that the words of the sub-section would enable children to abstain from attendance on saints' days. An amendment by Lord REDESDALE to alter the words which allow children to be withdrawn from religious instruction and Sunday-school was opposed by Lord DE GREY, who said it was necessary that there should be perfect freedom of withdrawal on the part of the parent, and perfect freedom of teaching on the part of the schoolmaster. The amendment was negatived. Three new clauses were added by Lord DE GREY, one providing for the inspection of voluntary schools and the examination of the scholars in religious instruction by an inspector, not one of Her Majesty's inspectors; the second providing for the re-transfer of a school by the School Board to the managers with the consent of the Education Department; and the third to meet the case put by Lord HOWARD of Glossop, and enabling managers of voluntary schools to take sites, by agreement, under the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act. Several verbal and other amendments were made.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of the Extradition Bill, said that we had entered into arrangements with the United States, France, and Denmark for the extradition of criminals other than political offenders. The bill gave a general power to the Government by an Order in Council to carry such treaties into effect, with certain precautions. The bill was read a second time.

OUR ARMAMENTS.

Lord NORTHBROOK (in reply to Lord Feversham) said that the statement that the Government had only 30,000 Snider rifles in store was ridiculously inaccurate. Of these rifles 75,000 had been placed in the hands of the Reserve forces, of which 53,000 had been given to the Militia. They would continue to be served out until the remaining 30,000 of the Milltia were supplied. The Volunteers would afterwards be gradually armed with Sniders. It was satisfactory to know that our army had in the Snider a rifle superior to that in the hands of any other European troops.

Lord COWPER asked whether Volunteer regiments willing to pay for converting their Enfields into Sniders would be allowed to do so at their own cost. Lord NORTHBROOK replied that any application of this kind to the War Office would receive due consideration. Lord MELVILLE complained of the inefficient state of the infantry, cavalry, and artillery, in consequence of recent reductions. Lord NORTHBROOK maintained generally the efficiency of the army, and specifically contradicted the statement that any infantry regiment had been reduced to 300 men.

Their Lordships adjourned shortly after eight.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday some two hours and a half were given to the discussion of a bill for enabling the Queen Anne's Bounty Board to superannuate its officers, and especially the secretary and treasurer, who is eighty-seven years of age, and has held the office nearly fifty years. It was sharply opposed, but on a division the second reading was carried by 100 to 43.

THE BALLOT.

On the order of the day being read for resuming the debate on Mr. Leatham's Ballot Bill,

Mr. GLADSTONE rose, and after dwelling on the reasons of time, pressure of other business, &c., which had compelled the Government reluctantly to withdraw their own bill, proceeded to give the reasons which had converted him to the ballot. Premising that the reduction of the franchise had given the question greater social importance than had been formerly attributed to it, he argued that household suffrage was practically unlimited suffrage, and that our representative system was now placed on such a basis that the whole people of the country presumably possessed the franchise; for, as he remarked incidentally, the extension of household suffrage to the counties was only a question of time. The deduction he drew from this was that the doctrine of the franchise being a trust no longer held good. Speaking abstractedly, he greatly preferred that every public duty should be discharged in public, and he regarded the ballot, therefore, not as an unmixed blessing, but rather as a choice of evils. After the large extension of the franchise which Parliament had recently sanctioned, its first duty was to see that the exercise of the franchise should be free and protected against the violence of mobs and the organised influence of property. This consideration chiefly, Mr. Gladstone said, had determined him in favour of secret voting, and induced him to declare that Parliament ought to give effect to it at the earliest moment. He pointed out that the postponement of the question would enable the Government to give further consideration to the best form of ballot machinery.

Mr. DISRAELI said that when this question—which he described as one full of import to the political future of England—came on he was prepared to contribute his share to the discussion, but he strongly deprecated a hurried and scrambling debate as derogatory to the dignity of the House. In the course of some amusing strictures on the Prime Minister's speech, Mr. Disraeli remarked that he had not advanced a single idea not perfectly familiar to everybody who had studied the ballot; and that the decided manner in which he had pronounced for the ballot was irreconcileable with the withdrawal of the Government bill. His reasons, too, for his own conversion were most unsatisfactory, for Mr. Disraeli held that the extension of the franchise was an argument against the ballot as making it less necessary, for the larger the constituency the stronger its moral power, and the less open would it be to improper influences.

Mr. B. ASSHETON made some observations which were very impatiently listened to, and on the question being put that the bill be read a second time, the Opposition remained silent, and the bill passed the stage without a division, amid loud cheers from below the gangway.

The House then went into committee as a preliminary to sanctioning a grant and loan to the extent of 200,000*l.* for the Shannon navigation; but so much opposition was urged on both sides, that Mr. STANSFELD ultimately consented to report progress *re infectâ*. The Factories and Workshops, Pedlars' Certificates, and Turnpike Acts Continuance Bills were read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT (1868) AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for going into committee on this bill, Mr. WINTERBOTHAM said he had an amendment on the paper that the House should go into committee on that day three months. The object of the bill was to continue the Public Schools Commission, which, under the former Act, would expire on the 1st January next. He thought it would be much better to allow the commission to expire, and that the further proceedings in respect to the seven public schools should be entrusted to the Endowed Schools Commission. He would, however, withdraw his amendment on one condition, namely, that the scheme framed by the commission so continued should be laid on the table of the House. He hoped that the Home Secretary would assent to his proposal. Mr. BRUCE had amendments to propose in committee, providing that the bodies to be dealt with should be the new governing bodies. The question, therefore, would not be the constitution of those bodies, but the schemes they prepared. What his hon. friend (Mr. Winterbotham) proposed would change the whole scheme of the endowed schools, and he hoped the motion would not be pressed. (Hear, hear.) Mr. WINTERBOTHAM pressed his motion, but withdrew it after a division had been called for.

The House then went into committee on the bill, and the clauses were passed with some verbal amendments.

Mr. WINTERBOTHAM moved the addition of a new clause, as follows:—

That the approval or disapproval of Her Majesty to any statute made by any such governing body, in pursuance of the powers so invested in it, shall not be signified until such statute has been laid before both Houses of Parliament for a period of not less than forty days.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL strongly objected to a remark of the hon. member to the effect that the objection to lay the schemes on the table of the House would give rise to suspicion of sinister motives. As one of the commissioners he begged emphatically to repudiate any such motive on their part. Mr. WINTERBOTHAM did not wish to asperse the motives of the commissioners. What he wished to imply was, that if the Government refused to lay on the table the schemes which had been affirmed by the commissioners and the governing bodies, their conduct would give rise to the suspicion that the Government were afraid the opinion of Parliament would be adverse to those schemes, and would control them in some way or other. The clause was rejected by 70 to 34 votes, and the chairman reported progress. The House adjourned at five minutes to six.

On Thursday Sir J. LUBBOCK gave notice that early next session he would move for leave to bring in a bill to remove all religious restrictions from the governing bodies of all public schools that were more than fifty years old.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS gave notice that in the next session he meant to call attention to the position of the Established Church in Wales from the social and religious point of view, apart from the historical and statistical arguments, and to move the following resolutions:—"1. That it is expedient and just that the Church in the Dominion and Principality of Wales should be disestablished, and its union with the State put an end to; and 2. That, subject to making provision for existing interests, that Church should be disendowed, and the funds be applied to a really national system of education for the said Principality."

WAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The questions to Ministers again turned, more or less directly, on the war. Mr. BOURKE elicited from Mr. OTWAY that since 1866 communications had been received from our ambassadors abroad on the subject of an understanding between France and Prussia as to alterations in the French frontier. They were of a confidential nature, but Mr. Otway promised to look through them and see whether they could be laid before Parliament. In answer to Mr. Gourley, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the Government did not intend to prohibit the exportation of coal; nor would they stop coal-laden ships unless it were shown that they were destined as store-ships for one or other of the belligerents. These questions would, however, have to be decided in the prize-courts of the captor. Mr. CARDWELL declined to say whether it was intended to place any portion of the army, which he assured the House was quite up to its strength, upon a war footing. On July 1 the strength of the British Army at home was as nearly as possible up to the establishment as sanctioned by Parliament, and there were in the Reserve Forces over 20,000 men liable for home and foreign service in the army, and nearly 20,000 available for home service. Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN was anxious to know by what route British subjects at present in Germany can best return home; but Mr. OTWAY, while promising that facilities should be afforded for the acquisition of passports by Englishmen abroad, declined to give any opinion as to the method of travelling which they should adopt in order to make their way back.

Mr. BRUCE gave a decided opinion that the persons who circulate "objectionable" documents with reference to the Contagious Diseases Acts render themselves liable to prosecution. The right hon. gentleman expressed a hope that this intimation would check the circulation of these works, which was especially inconvenient at a time of the year when it was not possible to put them into the fire.

On the motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. PLIMSOLL raised another discussion on the unseaworthy condition of many merchant ships, and called for official inspection. Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE pointed out that the Mercantile Marine Bill would make it a misdemeanour to send a ship to sea in an unfit state.

In reply to some observations of Mr. G. Gregory in withdrawing a motion on the subject, Mr. AYRTON stated that the Government had determined to proceed at once with the new law courts, and that an estimate would be laid on the table for that purpose to-day. After some conversation about Southwark Park, and the obligations on Ministers to produce despatches from which they quote, the House went into committee of supply, and Clauses III. and IV. of the Civil Service Estimates were voted, the Irish education vote being postponed.

THE EDUCATION VOTE.

Mr. FORSTER, in moving the British education vote, stated that there was an increase of 74,000*l.*, it being 914,721*l.* this year against 840,711*l.* last year. The increase in the annual grant was 54,732*l.*, which, as it was owing to an increase in the number of scholars, he did not think the committee would regret. In 1870 the day-scholars in average attendance were estimated at 1,082,000; this year he put it at 1,200,000. In the evening schools there was an increase of close upon 8,000, bringing them up to 80,000. The capitation grant was 1d. less than asked for last year, not that the scholars were earning less, but last year they found they asked for too much. This year they asked for 9s. 10d. Then there was a large increase in the training schools. They asked for no increase last year, but this year they found that the training schools were so much more vigorously in operation that they asked for an increase of 14,000*l.*; and, considering the demand that there would be for teachers, he was not sorry to be obliged to ask it.

Mr. V. HARCOURT said that he had withdrawn an amendment he had placed on the paper in regard to voluntary schools, after the expression of opinion given with respect to them in the debates on the Education Bill, and this was not a convenient time for raising the issue; but he could not help expressing his opinion that the result of the course which had been taken would be that, with the exception of two or three large towns, there would be no rate paid schools in the country. He did not mean to allege that the bill would be beneficial to education, but the donation of the right honourable gentleman would go principally to denominational schools, and the hopes of the Liberal party would be disappointed. The right hon. gentleman would really give this donation to those who contributed nothing at all. When that principle was discussed it would be condemned by the country. The main subject that would attract attention, was that the parents of the children would have no voice in the management of the schools. That would be fatal to the whole system.

Upon the vote for the London University there was some discussion as to the payment of the expenses of Mr. Lowe's election out of money voted by Parliament, and Mr. BENTINCK moved the reduction of the vote by the amount so expended; but upon a division this amendment was rejected by a majority of 76—115 to 39.

GLEBE LOANS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the order of the day for going into committee on this bill, Mr. NEWDEGATE moved the adjournment of the debate, on the ground that the present bill was merely for the purpose of securing endowment to the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. It would, moreover, give the power of holding property, in direct violation of the Statute of Mortmain. Rejected by 113 to 31. On Clause 8, there was a division on a motion of Mr. CANDLISH to reduce the duration of the Act from five years to three.

For the amendment	26
Against it	92—66

The clause was then added. The remaining clauses and schedules were agreed to.

The Lords' amendments to the Commons' amendments on the Irish Land Bill were considered and agreed to.

On the consideration of the Census Bill as amended, Mr. MILLER proposed in Clause 6, line 17, to insert "stating the number of rooms, having a window or windows, in each dwelling-house." Mr. BRUCE opposed the amendment, stating that the information which the hon. member proposed to obtain would be utterly useless as regarded England. Rejected by 60 to 46.

Mr. GLADSTONE brought in a bill shortening the number of days that must elapse before the summoning and the assembling of Parliament from fourteen to six. He also moved a new standing order enabling the House of Commons to go into Committee of Supply or Ways and Means immediately after the Address in answer to the Queen's Speech has been agreed to.

The House adjourned at two o'clock.

On Friday Mr. MCLAREN gave notice that in the next session he would move for leave to introduce a bill for the abolition of Church-rates in Scotland.

THE ESTIMATES.

The House made good progress with the estimates. The Navy Estimates were all voted at the morning sitting, the chief topic of discussion being the propriety of mixing Welsh and north-country coal. The vote of 153,919*l.* to complete the sum necessary for the Diplomatic Service was also passed, Mr. RYLANDS contenting himself with a protest against the excessive cost of a department which was supposed to represent the eyes and ears of the Foreign Office, but which as regards the approach of the event that has just plunged Europe in war had been apparently blind and deaf.

The Census Bill was read a third time and passed, and some progress was made in committee with the Scotch Census Bill.

At the evening sitting, Sir H. L. BULWER deferred until next Friday his motion on the Greek massacres.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to some observations of Mr. Macfie on the patent laws, said that the Government, though they admitted the difficulties and injustice of the present law, had not come to such a definite conclusion as to justify them in promising a bill for the next session. Nor would he undertake to propose a committee, though he would not discourage any motion to that effect made by an independent member. Mr. CARDWELL informed Colonel French that there was no intention to call out the Irish Militia, and declined to produce any correspondence between himself and the Lord Lieutenant upon the subject. In answer to an inquiry from Sir J. Hay, Mr. CHILDERS stated that a second flying squadron of seven frigates and corvettes would be ready for sea in the month of October, but that he was not at present prepared, for reasons which the House would well understand, to fix its destination. In committee of supply a number of votes, including that for the Packet Service, was agreed to.

The rejection of the Canada (Guarantee of Loan) Bill having been moved by Sir D. WEDDERBURN, Mr. STANSFELD and Mr. GLADSTONE, admitting the objections to such a guarantee, justified it as the fulfilment of a pledge. On a division the second reading was carried by 65 to 17.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past two o'clock.

SUPPLEMENTARY WAR ESTIMATE.

On Monday Mr. CARDWELL laid on the table a supplementary estimate of 2,000,000*l.*, "for strengthening the naval and military forces of this kingdom," including an addition to the army of 20,000 of all ranks during the European war. There was much cheering on both sides of the House when the estimate was read by the Clerk at the table. Immediately afterwards, Mr. CARDWELL, in answer to questions from Mr. B. Osborne and Captain Talbot, gave a formal assurance that the Government intend to increase the defensive forces of the country. He stated, too, that the whole force of the British army was only about 2,000 below the establishment; that the Militia regiments, with a few exceptions, are recruited up to their full strength; that the supply department is in a position to meet any exigencies; and that the 44th Regiment is not now to be sent to the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr. GLADSTONE, answering a question from Mr. Stapleton, stated that the law officers are of opinion that ships chartered to attend on a belligerent fleet for the purpose of supplying it with coal would, in effect, become storeships, and as such would come under the Foreign Enlistment Act.

THE WAR AND OUR DEFENCES.

Mr. DISRAELI rose, according to notice, to call attention to the position of this country with reference to the European war, and, first, by way of justification for his interposition, he said that, having witnessed the outbreak of several great wars during his Parliamentary career, he had noticed that much injury had been done by the reserve and silence observed by the House of Commons on such occasions, which, instead of assisting and strengthening the hands of the Government, had embarrassed it. Declining to discuss the ephemeral and evanescent pretexts of the war, which would have been disgraceful in the 18th century, and could not now seriously influence the conduct of any body of men, he pointed out that its real causes were to be gathered from the public declarations of the leading statesmen on both sides, such as M. Rouher and M. Bismark; and the Blue-book showed that vast ambitions were stirring in Europe, and subtle schemes were being devised which had brought about this war, and might produce other events of the utmost importance. After some remarks on the treaties guaranteeing Belgium and Luxembourg—of the former of which he said it was negotiated by distinguished Liberals, and was in accordance with the traditional policy of England—Mr. Disraeli reminded the House that at the Treaty of Vienna we had guaranteed to Prussia her Saxon provinces. That engagement, he contended, ought to have given us an overpowering influence with Prussia; but Russia has undertaken a similar guarantee—and Russia, too, was as anxious to be neutral as we—and in this coincidence he discerned a means by which, from the joint action of these two Powers, peace might be restored. The policy of England should be an armed neutrality, and at the proper time she might step in, and, in conjunction with Russia, exercise the most considerable effect on the course of public affairs. This led him to consider whether our armaments were in such a position as to enable us to take that line, and to require from the Government more complete information as to the strength of our fleet and of our army, the condition of our stores, the progress made in the fortifications, insisting that at a crisis like the present no effort should be spared to put the country in a position of complete security. Lord Granville, having but just moved to the Foreign Office, was of course taken by surprise, but Mr. Gladstone must necessarily have been perfectly well informed as to what was impending; and Mr. Disraeli professed himself unable to understand how the Prime Minister could have reconciled it with his duty to sanction such extensive reductions of our naval and military establishments. His object, however, was rather to warn than to reproach, and he earnestly urged the House to profit by the lessons of the Crimean War.

It was at this very period of the year—it was at the end of July—that, after two months of hesitation, Russia crossed the Pruth; and we have it upon record—we have it on the most authoritative and authentic evidence—that Russia would not have crossed the Pruth if England at that time had been decided—(Hear, hear) if England had told Russia that it was a question of war with England. (Cheers.) But Parliament was silent, Parliament was reserved, Parliament thought it would aid the Ministry by its reserve and by its silence. It embarrassed the Government. The Government separated from Parliament, and you had six months and more of discordant councils and infirm conduct. (Cheers.) And what did it end in? In the March of next year you had to go to war with Russia because it had crossed the Pruth and involved itself in war with Turkey. Now, I think we ought to profit by the experience of these transactions. (Hear, hear.) There may be questions at the present day on which if England speaks—I need not say with moderation and temper, but with clearness and decision—war will not occur, because the steps that would lead to war will not be pursued. Don't let us find ourselves again in the same humiliating position which led to the Crimean war, in which our army no doubt gained renown, but which no statesman can look back to without feelings of a very blended character. (Cheers.) That war might have been prevented, if the Government of England had spoken with decision. (Hear.) That war would not have occurred; and

having occurred, I think it might be logically shown that it was the cause of all the wars that have subsequently agitated and devastated Europe. Let us, I say, profit by that experience. Let the Government of this country feel that the House of Commons, without respect to person or party, is prepared to give them a hearty support. Let them speak to foreign Powers with that clearness and firmness which can only arise from a due conception of their duties and a determination to fulfil them. (Cheers.) If that course is taken by the Government, I more than hope, I believe, that this country will not be involved in the war. I believe more than that—I believe that the influence of England, especially if combined with the influence of the other great neutral Powers, may speedily secure the restoration of peace. But I think our course is plain. I think the Government ought to declare in a manner which cannot be doubted that England, as heretofore, will maintain her engagements under treaty—(cheers)—and thereby secure the rights and independence of nations. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. GLADSTONE commenced with a confession that the particular incident out of which the war had arisen had taken him by surprise, though, of course, he was perfectly aware of the state of feeling of which that incident was a symptom. He next sketched rapidly the steps taken by the Government to preserve peace. During the negotiations our position had been that of a mediator—our attitude now was neutrality; but not an "armed neutrality"—a phrase which he strongly deprecated as having an historical significance totally opposed to the friendly disposition which we ought to preserve towards both belligerents. But he agreed that our neutrality ought to be accompanied with adequate measures of defence; that it ought to be what he called a "secure neutrality." As to the suggestion of joint action with Russia, he merely said that he saw no objection to joining not only with one, but all the neutral Powers for the restoration of peace; but he differed entirely from Mr. Disraeli's idea of the claim which the Saxon guarantee gave us. The dissolution of the German Confederation and the recent aggrandisement of Prussia had destroyed its binding force, and we could not have advanced it without involving ourselves in the responsibilities of war. Describing next the attitude of the Government with regard to the future, he said that the "projected treaty" was considered by the Government to be a most important document, giving a serious shock to public confidence, and we ought to feel indebted to those who had brought it to light. The Government had taken the whole circumstances attending it into their consideration, and the propositions they meant to make to the House in their opinion met the necessity of the case and were calculated to establish perfect confidence and security. Having explained the various steps the Government had taken to maintain neutrality, he warmly defended it against Mr. Disraeli's charge of undue reduction of the services. In every reduction they had made, real strength and efficiency had been increased. We had 89,000 soldiers at home, with a reserve of 41,000; there was a considerable Channel fleet afloat, the armament for the forts was ready. As to the battalions, they were to be strengthened by the men about to be asked for; and the supply of arms of precision and of stores was about to be increased. As to the reduction of skilled workmen, Mr. Gladstone showed, in a tone of indignant retort, that the late Government had far exceeded the action of the present in that. In glowing language, he repudiated the notion that for any purpose of popularity the Government impaired the strength or perilled the honour of the country, and concluded by saying—

The deepest responsibility is imposed on them who at a period like this are charged with the conduct of affairs. Her Majesty's Government have maturely weighed what the country requires, and we now submit to Parliament the result of our deliberations in the belief that what we ask is calculated to fit us for the discharge of our duty, to enable us to maintain such a dignified and friendly position as will carry with it no suspicion, and will not, under the idea of securing safety, introduce new elements of danger and disturbance; to give us the best hope we can possess of accomplishing that which is the object nearest our hearts—namely, to maintain intact the character and fame of England while this unhappy war shall continue, and possibly at some blessed moment to be, either alone or along with others, the chosen bearers of a message of peace. (Cheers.)

Sir J. HAY maintained that the reductions of the present Government had seriously weakened the defensive strength of the country, and to prove this he went at length into the disposition of our fleet and the composition of the various squadrons. He found fault, too, with the promature closing of Woolwich Dockyard, which made it impossible to refit the North Sea Squadron without sending it round to Portsmouth, and expressed strong doubts as to the sufficiency of our stores.

Mr. OSBORNE complained that the Prime Minister had exhausted the whole fund of official reserve, particularly in regard to the guarantee of Belgian neutrality, and this reserve, he predicted, would be misunderstood abroad. He quite approved Mr. Disraeli's phrase, "armed neutrality," for he did not believe the people of this country were so soft as to feel much sympathy for either of the two parties who had just been caught trifling with their most solemn engagements. And what if, after a battle or two, they should make it up at the expense of Belgium? He suggested that we should ask Russia and Austria whether they were prepared to stand by their engagements, and come before the world boldly with a declaration that if supported by them we would regard an infraction of the Treaty of 1831 as a *casus belli*. This, he predicted, would have more effect than avoiding all discussion of the subject, and he pressed the Government, therefore, to make some further declarations as to the course they meant to pursue. Mr. Osborne dilated with his usual force on the position of nullity to which we had been reduced by our policy of over-parsimony, and among other measures called for an immediate embodiment of 200,000 Militia. Why could not the forty-seven Irish regiments of Militia be called out and brought over here, and the English Militia sent over to Ireland? (Hear.) These opinions might appear awkward and disagreeable to many members of that House. He agreed with the sentiment of the late Lord Aberdeen that when war ceased to be a necessity it became a crime. But the war is actually raging in Europe, and were they prepared to see France bounded by the Scheldt, and that this country should fall lower in the estimate of Europe? (Cheers.) He was not prepared for that. (Cheers.) He was for security and armed neutrality—he would not quarrel about the word—as long as they could be maintained with honour; neither security nor neutrality could be maintained by stifling the free expression of Parliamentary opinion. (Cheers.)

Mr. CARDWELL said that when the seas were calm and there was no danger, it was easy to be an economist; but when there came a time of excitement, and people wished to make a demonstration of force, it was easy to sneer at economy. His hon. friend regretted that there was a civilian at the head of the War Department; but neither civilian nor soldier could in a time of profound peace propose to this House estimates which would be necessary to sustain armies like those of France and Prussia. He undertook to prove that from the time of the disarmament after Waterloo down to the time of the Crimean war, there was never in this country a force of regular troops equal to that which was provided in this year's estimates. Since the Crimean war he would take two periods, and compare the state of their army now with its condition at these periods. The first period was 1862—that year in which the right hon. gentleman the member for Buckinghamshire described their armaments as bloated; and in that year they had in this country 92,276. On the estimates this year they provided for 89,051, being little more than 3,000 below the bloated armaments of 1862. In 1862 there were no less than 17,904 in depots of regiments serving abroad, but in 1870 there were only 10,503 men abroad, so that the number of men in this country in 1862 was 74,372, and in 1870, 78,548. The volunteers in 1862 were 140,000; this year they were 160,000; and at the present moment they had 21,000 of the first line of reserve under engagement to serve abroad or at home. He would next take the year 1862, the year immediately preceding that when the present Government took office. In that year they had 87,505 men, against 89,051 this year; and, deducting the number of men abroad, the numbers were 70,492, against 78,548. He could not agree with the hon. member that troops serving abroad could be regarded as a reserve. They were a source of anxiety, and not of strength, and they might have been a cause of public danger. He thought that the Government, in making their reductions, had proceeded upon a sound principle in reducing, not the numbers, but the strength of the battalions, so that they could be easily expanded in times of peace. If they took the regular forces and the reserve liable to serve abroad, there was, with the exception of the year 1856, when a number of the Crimean men were still on the books, a larger force available for service than they had had since the reductions. He then showed that our number of artillery for the current year was 12,801, and that we had 300,000 breechloaders in store. He admitted this was less than he should like, but he excused himself on the ground that, as they were on the point of adopting a new pattern rifle, he thought it was only proper economy to keep the stock rather on the side of deficiency than of excess. (Hear, hear.) With regard to projectiles, one and a half millions of small-arm cartridges could be made in a week, while of the larger projectiles as many as were discharged at the siege of Sebastopol could be made in the course of a few weeks. In time of profound peace, with such facility of production, it would be unjustifiable to keep excessive stocks of stores which were liable to deteriorate by keeping, and of which the patterns were liable to change. Such a course no Minister ought to recommend to the House, and he was sure no House would support him if he did. (Hear, hear.) With regard to fortifications, his conscience was clear, for, immediately on assuming office, he had asked for a vote to complete them, and the vote had been opposed by some hon. gentlemen who were now complaining of the state of our armaments. Her Majesty's Government had instituted a policy with regard to the military resources of this country, and that was to keep them low in time of profound peace, so as to give the country the benefit of the saving, and to avoid at the same time the moral evils of keeping a large unemployed force. The Government had, however, retained their "cadres." They had both the officers and materials, so that immediate expansion was easy. That policy applied alike to men and materials. He rejoiced that we were not at war, and he trusted we should not be obliged to go to war; and that we had not the prospect of war, or even of "armed neutrality." But he would say this, that, if we were to have a war, England would never have entered on a war with her resources in material and men in a better state of preparation. (Cheers.)

Major DICKSON drew a very gloomy picture of our military position, asserting that we were in no better a state of preparation than the year before the Crimean war. He implored the Government to take immediate steps to strengthen our army, and to make it effective for any contingency that might occur.

Sir H. HOARE maintained that an armed neutrality meant nothing more nor less than a menace and a threat to our old and faithful allies. (A voice: "Not a bit.") He hoped that not a man would be moved, or a shilling expended, in supporting a Power which in the past had been allowed to despoil France of a portion of territory that belonged to her. He protested against the argument that it was with France this country should go to war, and he disliked the manner in which it had been tried to excite suspicion against her. He was not aware that Prussia had been more faithful to treaties than France had. France had never deceived us—(Hear, hear)—whilst Prussia had not kept faith towards Denmark, or observed the Treaty of Prague. A war with France would inflict the greatest disasters on this country, and the ill feeling it would create would not be allayed for generations. In the name of his constituents he protested against the manner in which the name of France had been alluded to, for she had been our faithful ally for many years, and would not deceive us now. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. B. COCHRANE denied that France had been spoken of in terms otherwise than respectful. The hon. gentleman who had just spoken certainly had abused Prussia, by speaking of her as not having faithfully carried out her treaties. He was always in favour of non-intervention, but there were times when it was necessary to depart from it. The hon. member for Waterford was right when he said the Government shirked the real issue. The Government did not tell them whether they were prepared to maintain the neutrality of Belgium, which this country had guaranteed. If the Government thought the question was one too delicate for them to touch, he for one did not hesitate to say that the violation of the neutrality of Belgium should be made a *casus belli*.

Mr. RICHARD hoped that he should be permitted to make a few observations upon this question, being, as he was, a member of the Peace Party, which, to judge from the tone of the discussion that had occurred that night, did not appear to be very largely represented in that House. He had listened to the speech of the right hon. gentleman the member for Buckinghamshire with great pain and regret, mingled with considerable disappointment and surprise, because he had abandoned that wise reticence and admirable self-control that had always hitherto distinguished him in discussing questions of peace and war. The speech the right hon. gentleman had delivered that night was essentially a war speech, and it had been echoed by many hon. members on both sides of the House. Hon. members who cried out for increased armaments were pleased to dwell with questionable wisdom upon what they called the unpreparedness and defenceless condition of this country. He had paid some attention to matters of this kind for the last twenty-five years, and he had always remarked that our Army and our Navy never came up to the standards set up for themselves by hon. and gallant gentlemen. Some years ago a great outcry was raised in favour of that great constitutional reserve force, the Militia. Well, the Militia force having been established, was now declared to be utterly worthless. (Expressions of dissent.) He had heard it described that night as being of but little use. An hon. and gallant member opposite had stated that our infantry, our cavalry, and our artillery were in a most unsatisfactory state. If that statement were correct the country had a right to ask what had become of the hundreds of millions of money that had been poured into the lap of the naval and military authorities for the purpose of providing us with an adequate naval and military force. (Hear, hear.) He trusted, however, that the Government would not allow themselves to be provoked by reproaches from the opposite side of the House, nor by encouragement from those around them, to rush into a reckless and extravagant military expenditure upon such an occasion as this. The two beligerents engaged in the present war were likely to have sufficient to occupy their attention without doing anything calculated to provoke the hostility of England. Europe, in acting upon the mischievous maxim that in order to preserve peace we must be prepared for war, had found herself engaged in four bloody wars, and was now about to enter upon a fifth, which threatened to be the most disastrous of all. In February, 1855, Sir G. C. Lewis had declared that this country ought not to attempt to become a first-rate European military power, and that it would be sufficient if she were able to defend her own shores and her dependencies. ("Hear, hear" from Mr. Osborne.) The hon. member for Waterford, contrary to the Scriptural maxim, was swift to speak and slow to hear. Not only did he frequently address the House wittily, if not wisely, but he was always interpolating his observations when others were speaking. ("Hear," and a laugh.) Should war come upon us he hoped the hon. member would be caught and sent into the front rank of our army in order that he might have an opportunity of expending his valour. ("Hear" and a laugh.) He trusted that the Government would preserve an honourable and dignified neutrality, and that their exertions in that direction would be seconded by the people, and more especially by the press of this country. For his own part he sympathised with neither of the parties, who were responsible for the war, but with the suffering millions among their unfortunate subjects. He thanked the right hon. gentleman at the head of Her Majesty's Government for the tone of his speech that night, which would be approved by the great mass of the working classes, and which would enable him at some future time to step in as the representative of England with the view of mediating between the contending parties and putting an end to this terrible war. (Hear.)

Sir H. BULWER shared in Mr. Disraeli's wonder that anybody could be surprised by this war, for

every man not blinded by official information must have seen for some years a train of gunpowder stretching from Paris to Berlin, ready to be exploded by an accidental spark. Discussing the projected treaty, Sir Henry expressed his disbelief of its having been sanctioned by the Emperor, and he attributed it rather to M. Benedetti's adventurous diplomacy; but it was within his knowledge that the same offer had been made to Prussia by France before the ink of the Treaty of 1831 was dry. The only mode of securing the observance of treaties was the ability to enforce them, to proclaim that you will defend them, and to have allies on whom you can count. But our measures should not be taken in such a manner as to produce an impression that we were bent on war, when our object really was peace. There should, however, be no mystery as to our intentions.

Mr. Graves expressed great disappointment that the Government had not spoken out more decidedly in reference to the violation of Belgian neutrality, and he pointed out that it was not a mere Belgian question, quoting the opinion of Napoleon I., that Antwerp was a pistol pointed at the breast of England.

Mr. Gladstone rose for the purpose of replying to the speech of the hon. member, because, judging from the misapprehension which possessed his mind, he was fearful that a similar misapprehension might possess the minds of others.

I am fearful I may be blamed because I did name the name of Belgium. I may state at once it is not in my power to do what he has requested me to do—(cheers)—namely, to describe the nature of the proceedings which the Government propose to adopt; but I wish to remind the hon. gentleman that all which I said referred to the project of treaty which was published last week. I spoke of the extreme gravity of the event. I said it had been partly a shock to confidence, and, considering what is the subject of the treaty, I own I did not conceive that hon. gentlemen would not at once perceive that what I said had reference to Belgium. I said that the Government had thought it their duty to give the most careful consideration to the circumstances thus raised, and that they had, from that consideration, taken the steps best calculated to establish confidence and security. I should be sorry if, from any fault of mine, it should be supposed that the subject had escaped the attention of Government, which, on the contrary, it has absorbed. (Hear, hear.)

Sir P. O'Brien deprecated any reference to the Treaty of 1815, which had been blotted out by a Napoleon sitting on the throne of France. He regretted the want of neutrality which had been manifested in many of the speeches made that night.

Mr. Gilpin felt unfeigned satisfaction at the answer just given by the Prime Minister to the hon. member for Liverpool. Both belligerents had made an unequivocal avowal of their intention to respect the neutrality of Belgium and Luxembourg, and it would be offensive to thrust in their faces a threat of what we would do supposing them to violate that neutrality. His sympathies were with the people of England. Increased armament meant increased taxation. (Hear, hear.) The interests and honour of Great Britain were safe in the hands of our Government.

Mr. Fawcett endorsed the disappointment expressed by the hon. member for Liverpool that the debate should close without something being said from the Treasury Bench on the subject of Belgium. The declaration made by the two great Powers, that the neutrality of that country should be respected, ought to be acknowledged.

After a few words from Mr. M. Gurst, expressing complete confidence in the Government, the discussion closed.

FOREIGN ENLISTMENT BILL.

The Attorney-General then moved the second reading of the Foreign Enlistment Bill. He described at length the changes effected by the bill, of which the principal are the extension of the penalties of equipment and arming to the building and despatch of vessels, and the transfer of the onus of proving an innocent destination to the shoulders of the builder. The Secretary of State is to have the power of seizing any suspicious ship by his warrant, and the local authorities also are to be empowered to stop a vessel which they believe to be on the point of escaping.

Mr. S. Hill criticised the provisions of the bill, and Mr. Harcourt was of opinion that the punitive part of the bill was too stringent, and the preventive part too mild. Im particular he objected to making the building of ships penal. Sir Roundell Palmer defended the bill, while Mr. Samuda anticipated that the provisions as to building would be a severe blow to the trade here.

Mr. Rathbone, on the part of the commercial community, approved the bill.

Mr. Bourke took exception to the serious restrictions imposed on the shipbuilding trade, and after some observations from Lord Bury, the bill was read a second time.

The Meeting of Parliament Bill was read a second time.

The Post Office Bill was considered in committee, and several other bills, of which there were forty-five on the paper, having been forwarded a stage, the House adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain-trade to-day has ruled quiet but firm, the heavy showers which have fallen in various parts of the country having had the effect of retarding harvest operations and curtailing the supplies of new wheat. The attendance of millers to-day was only moderate, but the demand was inactive for both English and foreign wheat. Nevertheless, the improved rates of Monday last were realised for all descriptions in the few sales concluded. Barley was steady in value and demand for both grinding and distilling qualities. Malt ruled dull, at nominal currencies.

THE WAR.

The Emperor of the French left St. Cloud by the Circular Railway on Thursday for Metz, quite privately, where he arrived in the evening. Before leaving he addressed a letter to the Commandant of the National Guard of Paris, desiring him to tell the troops how much he reckoned upon their patriotism, and expressing his confidence in them to maintain order, and to watch over the security of the Empress. By Imperial decree the Empress is appointed Regent during the Emperor's absence.

On Sunday evening the King of Prussia left Berlin with his suite. The Queen took leave of His Majesty in the waiting-room of the railway-station. The staircase at the station was decorated with flowers, and an immense number of people assembled, cheering the King with great enthusiasm. His Majesty has probably gone to Frankfort.

The French forces on the frontier of Rhenish Prussia from Luxembourg to Strasbourg are estimated to amount to 350,000 men, and a considerable portion of them commenced their advance across the frontier on Friday, on which day, according to a Berlin telegram, Saarbruck was attacked. According to the Prussian bulletin, notwithstanding the great superiority of the enemy's forces, the attack was successfully repulsed.

Beyond vague reports of skirmishes and prolonged reconnaissances there is no war news of consequence from France. The *Official Journal* of Monday published the following, but without stating the place whence it has been received:—

"Provisions and munitions are being rapidly sent forward. The country itself furnishes great resources in meat and vegetables, but the military authorities husband them in order to prevent scarcity and dearness—precautions all the more necessary because the country before us has already submitted to enormous requisitions. According to the statements of deserters, the Prussians suffer greatly from want of blankets and tents. The Emperor has decided on abolishing the shako. This measure will be executed throughout within a few days. According to the statements of deserters the enemy are much astonished at the great range of the French rifles. The Bavarian outposts have fallen back on the Lauter."

It seems quite certain that the Germans have no idea of evacuating Rhenish Prussia, and taking a position behind the Rhine fortresses. They are supposed to have concentrated from 100,000 to 150,000 men on the Saar, with a view to advance from Saarlouis and attack the enemy in force, and cut off his communications with Metz.

Of the French naval operations little is known. The news from the North of Europe, taken together with that from the French war ports, makes it doubtful whether the naval operations of the ironclad squadron under the orders of Admiral Bouet-Willaumez will have that signal and decisive character which appearances rendered probable this time last week. The squadron has no troops on board. Five out of the seven ironclads are rams, and are formidable ships. The fleet has passed Copenhagen, and is believed to be now in the Baltic. Letters from France state that only half of the naval expeditionary force has left Cherbourg at present, while the army of debarcation is not yet organised. It is stated that a week at least must elapse before the second division of the French squadron can be got ready. It is supposed that 30,000 men from the camp at Lille will be embarked at Dunkirk, under General Montauban. According to report, as the efforts of Russia and England have succeeded in inducing Denmark to remain neutral, the French will disembark in Schleswig, and by occupying the Duchy for the Danes, induce them to join in the war against Germany.

The *Francais* says:—"We are enabled to state positively that the General of Division Trochu has just been appointed to a command of the greatest importance, . . . that of a large *corps d'armée* destined for a most striking operation." It is scarcely a secret that the operation spoken of is the invasion of Pomerania. The rumour is that the command of this force was offered to and accepted by Prince Napoleon, on his return from Norway, but that the entire body of officers held a meeting and protested against His Highness's appointment. General Trochu, second in command, carried this remonstrance to the Emperor, who instantly suppressed his cousin's commission, and granted the chief authority to his subordinate.

Admiral Dieudonné's squadron is cruising between the Weser and the Elbe.

A despatch from the Hague, dated July 28, announces that a sea-fight took place on the day before between two French vessels of war and some Prussian gunboats, not far from Cuxhaven, on the coast of Hanover, when one of the latter was sunk.

The Danish Government has shown great apprehension. It seems that it is not at all sure of being master of the situation if a French fleet appears in Danish waters. The journals called nationalist exercise a paramount influence on public opinion, and they all side with France against Prussia. The Duc de Cadore arrived at Copenhagen on Sunday on a special mission to the Courts of Denmark and Sweden.

THE EMPEROR'S AND KING WILLIAM'S PROCLAMATIONS.

The Emperor and the Prince Imperial arrived at Metz on Thursday night, and were received with great enthusiasm. His Majesty has since issued the following proclamation, addressed to the soldiers of the army:—

Soldiers,—I am about to place myself at your head to defend the honour and the soil of the country. You go to fight against one of the best armies in Europe, but others who were quite as worthy were unable to resist your bravery. It will be the same again at the present time. The war which is now commencing will be a long and severe one, since it will have for the scene of its operations places full of fortresses and obstacles; but nothing is too difficult for the soldiers of Africa, the Crimea, China, Italy, and Mexico. You will again prove what the French army, animated by the sentiment of duty, maintained by discipline, and inspired with love of country, can perform. Whatever road we may take beyond our frontiers, we shall find glorious traces of our fathers. We will prove ourselves worthy of them. The whole of France follows you with her ardent wishes, and the eyes of the world are upon you. The fate of liberty and civilisation depends upon our success.

Soldiers,—Let each one do his duty, and the God of armies will be with us. Napoleon.

The Imperial head-quarters, Metz, July 28.

The King of Prussia has issued the following proclamation:—

To my People,—On my departure to-day for the army, to fight with it for Germany's honour, and the preservation of our most precious possessions, I wish to grant an amnesty for all political crimes and offences, in recognition of the unanimous uprising of my people at this crisis.

I have instructed the Minister of State to submit a decree to me to this effect.

My people know, with me, that the rupture of the peace and the provocation to war truly did not emanate from our side. But, being challenged, we are resolved, like our forefathers, placing full trust in God, to accept the battle for the defence of the Fatherland.

William.

SUPPOSED PLANS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

The following, from a leading article in the *Times* of Monday, gives a general view of the military position prior to active operations:—

The King of Prussia left Berlin for Mayence last evening, after issuing a proclamation granting an amnesty to political offenders. The King, as our readers are aware, is commander-in-chief of all his own forces and of those of his Northern Confederates and of his Southern allies; but the direction of military operations has been hitherto entrusted to his two Royal Lieutenants, Prince Frederick Charles and the Crown Prince of Prussia. The former is in command on the right at Coblentz. The King's head-quarters are, or were till lately, at Kreutznach, a well-known watering-place on the Nahe, at about ten miles distance from the confluence of that river with the Rhine at Bingen. The Crown Prince was to take the command of the armies of the Southern States—Bavaria, Wurtemburg, and Baden—and he started from Berlin for his destination on Tuesday last. He was yesterday at Mannheim, a town belonging to the Grand Duchy of Baden, on the right bank of the Rhine, and at the confluence of the Neckar with that river. The whole German force is thus, or will soon be, drawn up in one line on the Rhine between Coblentz and Mannheim, with its centre at Mayence. But it is by no means certain that the Crown Prince has as yet assembled all his forces about him. The Southern army was till lately on the borders between Bavaria and Würtemberg, and was supposed to be moving forward towards some spot opposite to Mulhouse. The French marshals have, as it seems, massed their main army in advance of Metz, drawing up their divisions one by one from the South, till, as it is asserted, with evident exaggeration, they have left even Strasbourg in the keeping of only a few battalions of the Garde Nationale Mobile. They probably started under the impression that south of the Main they had nothing but friends, and when undeceived on that score by the patriotic resolutions of the Munich, Stuttgart, and Carlsruhe Governments, came to the equally hasty conclusion that those Southern States could not soon become very formidable enemies. Had these Southerners, indeed, been left to themselves and to their native rulers, the want of sufficient understanding and combination among them might have delayed their movements at this juncture, as it did when these same States were acting as auxiliaries of Austria against Prussia during the Seven Weeks' Campaign. The presence of the Crown Prince, however, and, perhaps, that of a few choice Prussian regiments, may breathe a new spirit into those Bavarians and Swabians, who, well led, may rank among the best fighting men in Europe.

It becomes daily more probable that the French plan of campaign consisted of an attack on the Prussian frontier of the Saar, and on the Bavarian Palatinate from Forbach, Sarreguemines, and Bitche, against the Prussian lines at Saarbruck, Zweibrucken, and Pirmasens, with a view to force their way to Neuenkirchen, and hence along the two great railway lines which branch out from that junction, the one through St. Wendel and Birkenfeld to Kreutznach and Bingen, the other by Homburg, Kaiserlautern, and Neustadt, to the Rhine at Spires, at Worms, or at Ludwigshafen, opposite to Mannheim. Such was supposed to be the plan of attack of the French; such it is still believed to be; and it was thought with some reason that the Prussians, aware of the advantage the French had at these points, owing to the proximity of their base of operations at Metz and Strasbourg, did not intend to offer any serious resistance to their enemies' advance. The

supposition is so far borne out that they have certainly fallen back from Trèves, the old city of the Three Kings, which is the only point on the frontier without railway communication with the Rhine. But the Prussians, though their main force is concentrated on the Rhine, are still holding their ground all along their more advanced line on the Saar, and have even overstepped their boundaries in various encounters, harassing their enemies' outposts, and exchanging shots with sufficient success to revive their trust in their needle-gun as a match for the Chassepot. According to the latest Prussian official despatch, a French attack upon Saarbruck on Saturday was repulsed by the Germans, though greatly inferior in numbers. Saarbruck is not a strong place, but as it lies in front of the whole line, facing the French advanced posts at Forbach on the right, and at Sarreguemines on the left, it is not unlikely that its defenders have thrown up some earthworks to break the enemy's onset.

Were the French firmly bent on following the line of attack we have described, and had the Prussians made up their minds to fall back before them to their second line on the Rhine at Mayence and Coblentz, it would by no means follow that the invaders would have a very easy march. The districts between the Moselle and the Rhine, whatever charms they may have for the tourist, as presenting spots of unsurpassed beauty, are by no means favourable to military operations on so large a scale as the vastness of modern armies necessitates. Forest-clad bluffs, deep ravines, bare plateaux, and scarped rocks crowned with castles and hamlets, diversify the landscape at every step, while the lower hills and valleys, all laid out in wall-enclosed vineyards and gardens, hardly allow any opening to an invading army except by the main roads. A region of this nature offers, of course, no insurmountable obstacle to such active and agile troops as the French; but it is not to be overrun without difficulty; and, even if the Prussians do not intend to fight a pitched battle, they still have it in their power to retard the advance of the French, and to inflict on them severe loss.

"Z," a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, evidently a military officer, is publishing some "Notes on the War." In a first article, reviewing the resources of the belligerents, he says:—"The fact is, France has not more than about 550,000 drilled men at her disposal, while North Germany alone has 950,000. And this is an advantage for Germany, which will tell more and more the longer decisive fighting is delayed." In a second article it is remarked that the forward movement of the French army commenced on the 29th of July in a direction indicated by the map:—

The valley of the Rhine, on the left bank, is closed in to the west by the mountain chain of the Vosges from Befort to Kaiserlautern. North of this latter town the hills become more undulating, until they gradually merge in the plain near Mayence. The valley of the Moselle in Rhenish Prussia forms a deep and winding clough, which the river has worked out for itself through a plateau, which rises to the south of the valley into a considerable range called the Hochwald. As this range approaches the Rhine the plateau character becomes more predominant, until the last outlying hills meet the farthest spurs of the Vosges. Neither the Vosges nor the Hochwald are absolutely impracticable for an army; both are crossed by several good highroads, but neither are of that class of ground where armies of from 200,000 to 300,000 men could operate with advantage. The country between the two, however, forms a kind of broad gap, twenty-five to thirty miles in width, undulated ground, traversed by numerous roads in all directions, and offering every facility to the movements of large armies. Moreover, the road from Metz to Mayence goes through this gap, and Mayence is the first important point on which the French will probably move. Here, then, we have the line of operations prescribed by nature. In case of a German invasion of France, both armies being prepared, the first great encounter must take place in the corner of Lorraine east of the Moselle and north of the railway from Nancy to Strasbourg; so, with a French army advancing from the positions where it concentrated last week, the first important action will take place somewhere in this gap, or beyond it, under the walls of Mayence.

The French army was thus concentrated:—Three corps (the 3rd, 4th, and 5th) in a first line at Thionville, St. Avold, and Bitche; two corps (the 1st and 2nd) in second line at Strasbourg and Metz; and as a reserve, the Guards at Nancy and the 6th corps at Châlons. During the last few days the second line was brought forward into the intervals of the first, the Guard was moved to Metz, Strasbourg was abandoned to the Mobile Guard. Thus the whole body of the French forces was concentrated between Thionville and Bitche, that is, facing the entrance of the gap between the mountains. The natural conclusion from these premisses is that they intend marching into it. Thus, the invasion will have commenced by occupying the passages of the Saar and the Blies; the next day's proceedings will probably be to occupy the line from Tholey to Homburg; then the line from Birkenfeld to Landstuhl or Oberstein to Kaiserlautern, and so forth—that is to say, unless they are interrupted by an advance of the Germans. There will be, no doubt, flanking corps of both parties in the hills, and they, too, will come to blows; but for the real battle we must look to the ground just described.

Of the positions of the Germans we know nothing. We suppose, however, that their ground of concentration, if they intend to meet the enemy on the left bank of the Rhine, will be immediately in front of Mayence, that is, at the other end of the gap. If not, they will remain on the right bank, from Bingen to Mannheim, concentrating either above or below Mayence, as circumstances may require. As to Mayence, which in its old shape was open to bombardment by rifled artillery, the erection of a new line of detached forts, 4,000 to 5,000 yards from the ramparts of the town, seems to have made it pretty secure. Everything points to the supposition that the Germans will be ready and willing to advance not more than two or three days later than the French. In that case it will be a battle like Solferino—two armies deployed on their full front, marching to meet each other.

Much learned and over-skilful manœuvring is not to be expected. With armies of such magnitude there is trouble enough to make them move simply to the front according to the preconcerted plan. Whichever side attempts dangerous manœuvres may find itself crushed by the plain forward movement of the masses of the enemy long before these manœuvres can be developed.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.

Holland has called out her reserve, and in less than a week will have 150,000 troops under arms. Royal orders have been issued, both in Belgium and Holland, forbidding any comments in the press upon the war, or the publication of any but official news.

There are 100,000 men now under arms in Belgium to guard the neutrality of that country. Of these, 60,000 are ready for field operations, while 40,000 garrison Antwerp and the Quadrilateral. The statement lately published by a Paris paper that the fortifications of Antwerp were falling to pieces, owing to the nature of the ground on which they were constructed, is quite unfounded.

Brussels letters say that scarcely any doubt is entertained in Belgium as to the genuineness of the treaty. Its publication, taken in connection with the periodical attacks of the French official press upon the country and its institutions, has destroyed the little sympathy for France that was still lingering among the less educated classes. For the last twenty years, says the correspondent of the *Daily News*, Frenchmen of all political parties have disliked Belgium, mainly because she has carried out a system of free government of which France has shown herself incapable.

The Paris *Liberté* publishes an article, a translation of which will be found in our Paris correspondence, respecting an alleged intention on the part of the English Government to occupy Antwerp. The *Liberté* says that the Queen and the Court, not daring openly to declare for Prussia, support her by sympathy, which, although sterile at present, none the less threatens France. It admits that the English Ministry is composed of sagacious and prudent statesmen, but says that Lord Granville is easily influenced by his sovereign and that Mr. Gladstone is very changeable. To occupy Antwerp, the *Liberté* adds, would be to defy France and even to endanger Belgium. It would, moreover, be a violation of the Belgian constitution. Without the consent of the Belgian Chambers, in fact, not a single soldier could be sent to Antwerp, and the *Liberté* is quite certain that that consent would never be given. All Europe, too, would oppose an English occupation of Antwerp, and a general war would follow for the next quarter of a century. For these reasons the *Liberté* thinks Mr. Gladstone will not dare to carry out a project the results of which would be so terrible.

(*Continued on page* 739.)

Postscript.

Wednesday, August 3rd, 1870.

THE WAR.

ADVANCE OF THE FRENCH.

The following official French bulletin has been issued:—

"METZ, August 2, afternoon.

"To-day, at eleven a.m., the French troops assumed the offensive.

"They crossed the frontier, and had a serious engagement with the Prussians.

"Notwithstanding the strength of the enemy's position, a few battalions sufficed to carry the heights commanding Saarbruck, and their artillery quickly drove the enemy from the town. The French loss is slight. The engagement commenced at eleven a.m., and terminated at one p.m.

"The Emperor was present at the operations, accompanied by the Prince Imperial, who displayed complete presence of mind and coolness.

"His Majesty returned to Metz at four p.m."

Official intelligence, published in Paris yesterday, announces that up to three o'clock in the afternoon on the previous day no engagement had taken place on the banks of the Rhine. News to the same effect reaches us from Prussian sources. A telegram announces the arrival of the King of Prussia at Mayence early yesterday morning.

The 7th Prussian Army Corps, under General von Zastrow, is said to be advancing on Trèves by way of the Eifel range of hills.

A letter in the *Débats* says that on Thursday or Friday last, there was rather a smart engagement of outposts in the neighbourhood of the *corps d'armée* of Thionville, and that 105 wounded Frenchmen were brought into Metz. The writer did not know the object or the result of the encounter.

It has been announced that negotiations were on foot with a view to an alliance between Great Britain, Austria, and Italy. The semi-official *Opinione* declares, however, that the first-named Government refuses to enter into any alliance with the neutral Powers.

Recruiting is now proceeding in London with greater activity than at any time since the war with Russia.

A Paris telegram dated last night says:—"It is believed here that there will be no action for some days unless the Prussians attack. The Prussian organisation is reported to be faulty, and their supplies deficient. They have strengthened their position by lines, thirty-six leagues of which are said to be finished."

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last night, Earl RUSSELL moved the second reading of his bill for facilitating the calling out of the militia; and in doing so made some general observations upon the state of affairs on the continent. These he described as full of danger and menace, more especially to the neutrality and independence of Belgium. The conduct of France he characterised as unjustifiable in the extreme; and called upon the Government, as the best means of removing the perils with which Europe is threatened, to declare explicitly that England will at all costs abide by her treaty obligations and enforce her treaty rights. Lord GRANVILLE assured their Lordships that nothing had occurred since last week to affect the declaration of policy which he then made. While he was willing to afford to their Lordships all proper information, he must decline to make unnecessary declarations, and must be allowed some discretion as to the time and manner in which any explanations should be conveyed to the House. For the present it was enough to say that the Government was well aware of its duties and obligations towards Belgium; and should rely upon the support of Parliament and the people, pursuing with calmness and firmness the course which the honour, the interests, and the duties of the country required. In this spirit communications had been made to foreign powers, and would before Parliament separated be laid before both Houses. Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE said a few words, and then the bill was withdrawn.

The Education Bill was read a third time and passed.

Lord HARROWBY procured by 43 to 39 votes the insertion in the Census Bill of a clause requiring the taking of a religious census; and after several other bills had been advanced a stage, their Lordships adjourned.

At the early sitting of the House of Commons only a few questions were asked, but two of them had at least some bearing upon the war on the Continent. The PRIME MINISTER informed Mr. V. Harcourt that the Government adhere to their determination to leave to the Powers principally concerned the publication of the communications which were conducted by the late Lord Clarendon, with a view to the mutual disarmament of France and Prussia; and stated that no attempt had been made "to secure on the part of the civilised world a combined remonstrance against an unjust and unnecessary war," because it was thought that such a step would be more likely to produce exasperation than to promote peace. At the instance of Mr. S. Beaumont, Mr. OTWAY consented to reprint the treaties guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium and Luxembourg.

When the House was asked to go into Committee of Supply, Sir H. BULWER called attention to the Greek massacres in April last, and inquired what satisfaction the Government have obtained, or mean to obtain, from the Greek Ministry for those murders. In the course of his reply Mr. GLADSTONE said that not even the important events which are occurring in another part of the continent of Europe will be allowed entirely to withdraw the attention of the Foreign Minister from the affairs of Greece.

After Mr. CARDWELL had been required to give some additional information as to the strength of our forces and our store of breech-loading small arms, the Speaker was allowed to leave the chair and the House went into Committee of Supply. The SECRETARY of WAR, having proposed a vote for the addition of 20,000 men to the army, Sir W. LAWSON described it as the first step towards a policy of intervention, and announced his intention to divide against it, even if he went into the lobby alone. Sir J. PAKINGTON attacked Mr. Cardwell for the confidence with which he had spoken of the strength of the army at the Mansion House on Saturday last, and asked for additional information upon the subject. This drew from the SECRETARY FOR WAR a repetition of the explanations which he offered in the course of the debate on Monday evening, but these did not by any means satisfy General Herbert, who required still more details. The reply of Captain VIVIAN to these demands was exceedingly brief. Mr. T. B. POTTER announced his intention of supporting the member for Carlisle in his opposition to the vote; and expressed his hope that whatever might happen we should avoid "the stupendous folly" of sending a British army to the Continent. After a little more military talk, the committee divided; and the vote was carried by a majority of 156—161 to 5. Immediately afterwards the Chairman reported progress, and when one or two bills had been advanced a stage the sitting was suspended.

When the House reassembled at nine o'clock it at once went into Committee of Supply. The vote of credit of two millions was agreed to without any opposition; and then the committee resumed the consideration of the ordinary estimates. The discussion of the remaining votes under the Army and Civil Service Estimates occupied several hours, and gave rise to more than one interesting conversation—the grants for the works of Alderney, and the compensation to Foreign-office agents, exciting especial attention. At twenty minutes past one the committee completed its labours, and amid general cheers Mr. Dodson was ordered to report its final resolutions to the House. Several measures were advanced a stage before the House adjourned at three o'clock.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1870.

SUMMARY.

The first great battle on the Rhine frontier has still to be fought, although the Emperor and King of Prussia have been for some days at headquarters. Napoleon III. does not despise his foe, and he even warns his soldiers that "the war which is now commencing will be a long and severe one, since it will have for the scene of its operations places full of fortresses and obstacles." If there was a period when the French army could have planted itself on the Rhine with little hindrance, that time has now passed. Rhenish Prussia is held by perhaps a quarter of million of German troops, and, according to appearances, it is quite as possible that the terrible conflict may take place on French as on Prussian soil. There have been during the past week severe skirmishes, in which some lives have been lost, and yesterday a portion of the Imperial troops crossed the frontier. According to the French bulletin, "notwithstanding the strength of the enemy's position, a few battalions sufficed to carry the heights commanding Saarbruck, and their artillery quickly drove the enemy from the town." It was only a two hours' fray, in which apparently the casualties were few, and it derives importance mainly from the presence of the Emperor at the operations, and from the probability that it was designed to check the advance of the Prussians, who are said to be massed in great force in that district ready to assume the offensive. So momentous are the stakes at issue that it is not unlikely the strategic game of the directing generals on either side may last some days before a general engagement takes place.

The consciousness of Napoleon III. that he has to encounter a most formidable foe, is manifested by the sudden withdrawal of the French troops from Rome, and the sending of a special mission to the Scandinavian Courts. The Danish Cabinet is striving earnestly to maintain neutrality. But a French fleet is already expected off Jutland, another is shortly to pass Copenhagen, and the sympathies of the population are strongly in favour of France. Schleswig is, however, strongly guarded by Prussian troops, and a large force, "twice as large as the whole of the troops now gathered in the United Kingdom," is on the watch in Hanover under General Falkenstein, to act against any French army which may be landed from the sea. There is abundant evidence that Austria will maintain a rigid neutrality in the impending struggle, and that Russia, like England, is disposed to hold entirely aloof, and at the earliest moment interpose her good offices to bring the war to a close.

The projected secret treaty between France and Prussia has been the topic of discussion in the House of Lords, and of diplomatic correspondence between our Foreign Minister and the Courts of Paris and Berlin. The fact that Count Bismark and Count Benedetti have frequently talked over the subject of territorial compensations to France for Prussian acquisitions, is admitted on both sides, and the French diplomatist does not deny having written the draught treaty which arranged for the annexation of Belgium to the Empire. Whether he wrote it at the Prussian Minister's dictation, or presented it of his own accord as embodying the views of his master, is a point in dispute not likely soon to be cleared up. Both Powers have, however, reiterated their assurances that they will respect the neutrality of Holland and Belgium during the war, but each of these small States has called out all its forces to protect its own frontier.

The distrust which the discovery of the proposed treaty has created at home is reflected in the precautionary measures taken by the Government, and still more strongly in the debates in Parliament and the tone of the press. Ministers have presented to the House of Commons a supplementary estimate for two millions to be expended in an addition of 20,000 troops to the army and in naval armaments. The vote was carried yesterday—five members only opposing the additional credit demanded. Our dockyards are once more the scene of active preparation, and before long the whole ironclad strength of the British navy—equal to that of any two other Powers—will be concentrated in the Channel. To maintain that "secure neutrality" which the Government desire, we have already, according to Mr. Cardwell, larger defensive forces than at any period since the Crimean war. Pressed last night in the House of Lords by Earl Russell, Lord Granville declared that the Government are aware of the duty this country owes to Belgium, and expressed his perfect confidence that if they follow judiciously and actively the course which the honour, the interests, and the obligations of the country dictate, they will receive the full support of Parliament and the nation. His Lordship further intimated that the Government had last week in the clearest manner, though without adopting an offensive or menacing tone, conveyed to other Powers an intimation of what they believed to be due from and to England.

The Session draws to an end. On Monday evening the Irish Land Bill received the Royal assent, and the Education Bill has been read a third time and passed by the Upper House. In Committee the scanty Liberal provisions of the measure have been further restricted, and we trust that the Government will recommend the rejection of these alterations when the Bill again comes down to the Commons. Last night the Commons finished the Supply votes for the year. In the other House, Lord Harrowby carried, by 43 to 39 votes, and against the Government, a clause requiring a statement of "religious persuasion" in next year's census, which no doubt the Commons will expunge.

ENGLAND'S POLICY IN RELATION TO THE WAR.

The slightest smell of gunpowder in the air acts upon some sorts of men—and they are by no means few—as an almost irresistible stimulant to whatever combativeness they may have in their nature. To a much greater extent than is creditable to our boasted civilisation, it is so even to the non-professional classes of our countrymen. We Englishmen, who, during the whole of the last two Sessions of Parliament, have been earnestly intent upon, and diligently employed in, redressing injustice, soothing and conciliating alienated national sentiment, making provision for the education of the popular mind, and discussing various plans for checking and eradicating habits of intemperance amongst the people, retain, after all, a vast preponderance of animalism in the development of our political life. Recurring to the controversy which was prominent amongst philosophers a few years ago, we are afraid we must confess that there is "more brute than angel" in our national disposition, and that, under strong excitement, which war is sure to elicit, all traces of the latter speedily fade away beneath the deepening colours of the former. The fact may be perceived in almost all the ordinary ways and channels of social life. There is just now, and we fear there will be for some little time to come, a kind of perkiness, natural or assumed, in the bearing of too large a proportion of English people in relation to the war on the Continent. They are getting to indulge in a habit of laying down the law in regard to future contingencies with a force of expression which can only be exceeded by ignorance of the historical facts which bear upon those contingencies; and, if we might say so without disrespect, they are embarrassing and obscuring the clear out-look of the Government by those clouds of gossipy words which, according to the proverb, do not "increase wisdom."

The duty of the Government in relation to the Franco-Prussian war is surely clear and definite enough, so far as present action is called for. Two great neighbours on the other side of the water, each of whom has been silently or ostentatiously arming for the last four years, have at length dropped all pretexts, and, with equal eagerness, have rushed into war, with no other object that can be assigned for it but a trial of their strength. England, up to this present moment, has faithfully discharged towards both the obligations which all the ties growing out of close vicinity and constant intercourse have imposed upon her. She has remonstrated with both the belligerents before they had declared themselves such. She has gone between them, uttering words of reason and sobriety, and appealing to sentiments of high political and international morality. In the correspondence between our Government aud the various Governments of Europe, which preceded the outbreak of the war, we are happy and proud in being able to recognise the fact that the part borne by our own diplomatists has throughout left no stain upon the Christian profession somewhat too easily made by the Government and Legislature of the country. Nothing can be more admirable than the courteous and polished form, the substantially wise and politic counsels, or the unwearied forbearance and patience of spirit with which our noble Foreign Secretary, from beginning to end, has laboured for the preservation of the peace of Europe.

Mr. Gladstone's Government, so far as a judgment can be based upon the materials of information which have been put before us, is bound by the circumstances and conditions of the case to follow up the course which it has hitherto pursued, until contrary events shall have rendered it impossible. Regard for the interests of their own countrymen, as well as of humanity at large, should impel Her Majesty's advisers to strengthen all the agencies, and to make all the legislative changes, likely to be required for the maintenance of a strict *neutrality*. We are happy to observe that they are not inclined to neglect their responsibilities in this direction. They will not suffer the mistakes, or the *laches*, which occurred during the American Civil war to be repeated. They are already engaged in obtaining from Parliament all those powers for enforcing neutrality upon the Queen's subjects, the want of which was found to be a source of so much misunderstanding between our American kinsmen and ourselves, less then a decade since. This is one material part of their duty at the present crisis, and they are giving zealous attention to it. They are keenly looking out for, and as effectually as possible rooting up and destroying, those minor causes which experience has shown to operate most powerfully as provocatives of international illwill between belligerents and neutrals. They cannot altogether draw off from the atmosphere its element of heat, but they can use, and are intent upon using, all those appliances which, locally at least, will conduce to a cool and dispassionate treatment of the facts requiring the action of the executive.

We cannot say that we fully understand the reasons which have induced the Government to go beyond this position. In the Debate of Monday night, Mr. Disraeli urged the establishment of an "*armed neutrality*," which Mr. Gladstone very properly deprecated. But is he not, in point of fact, by a demand of 20,000 additional men, and a supplementary credit of two millions sterling, virtually, if not nominally, acting upon the advice of the leader of the Opposition? What good is to come of it we cannot tell. The Ministry do not surely contemplate the sending of a small army to the continent, and they have not the slightest reason

to fear an invasion of this island. On the former supposition, the number of men proposed is of no use whatever; on the latter hypothesis, the addition to our army would be superfluous. Possibly, the sacrifice we are called upon to make is one which has no further object than that of silencing the clamours of the war party, and thus preventing the engendering of a war spirit. But we must say that the experiment is a dangerous one, and will be as likely, we fear, especially if repeated, to feed the military flame which the war has kindled, as to keep it under, and finally extinguish it.

As to the remoter future, will it not be wisdom to let it take care of itself? "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." No doubt, the Project of Treaty which has just been divulged, discloses exceedingly disagreeable tendencies in some of our neighbours, and may put us on the alert to watch their behaviour, and to bear ourselves as manfully, honestly, and wisely, as possible in relation to the events which actually occur. But we utterly disagree with those who think that we ought to tell Europe beforehand all that we purpose doing should the disgraceful bargain which seems to have been discussed between Franee and Prussia be carried into effect. It is not because the householder has overheard the servants of his neighbours wrangle over what their masters will do to a third party in order to serve their own selfish interests, that he would be thereupon justified in taking measures to frustrate plans which may have no serious existence. England ought not to pledge herself that she will involve her subjects in the horrors of war, and expose them to all its morally deteriorating influences, merely for the purpose of expressing her indignation at perfidy which only diplomatists have been proved to be really responsible for. It may be, indeed, that France and Prussia are chargeable with a certain guilty sympathy in a policy of robbery; but it is surely the part of a Government like ours to abstain from drawing sweeping conclusions, and, more particularly, from basing and declaring a settled policy thereupon. The occasion may never arise—probably will never arise—which diplomatic conspiracy seems to have too confidently foreordained. Of course, England's honour must be preserved, and her obligations discharged; but let her not go about beforehand vaunting to the world what she will do in case such and such things happen. And let her hear in mind that her honour is as deeply touched, or ought to be, by whatever relates to the social, intellectual, or moral condition of her own subjects, as by a Quixotic attempt to carry out "in the letter," engagements which the conduct of other Powers have rendered null "in the spirit." We trust this is the feeling of Her Majesty's Government, and we need not add that, in so far as it seems to give expression so that feeling, we shall rejoice in ministering to it our humble but hearty support.

THE BALLOT.

SOME of the papers have made merry with the Prime Minister's Ballot speech on Wednesday last. Referring to the characteristics of the steam-hammer, the *Times* says Mr. Gladstone cracks nuts when he ought to be forging iron. But why should questions of domestic policy be neglected because a great foreign war impends? It cannot be said that reform advances with too hasty strides. Our legislation, thanks to the House of Lords, is too much like the Sisyphus stone which was constantly got to the top of the hill only to be rolled down again. Mr. Gladstone's speech on Wednesday, so far from being a barren declaration, was the distinct enunciation of a policy which is to occupy a foremost place in the Ministerial policy. In assenting at this late period of the Session to the second reading of Mr. Leatham's Ballot Bill, the Premier emphatically marked his sense of the importance of the question, and the cordial cheers below the gangway indicated that the advanced Liberals, notwithstanding recent differences, still confide in their leader.

Mr. Gladstone does not regard the Ballot as an unmixed blessing, but rather as a choice of evils. It is, nevertheless, an urgent reform—the first duty of a Parliament which has recently sanctioned an extension of the suffrage being to see that the exercise of the franchise should be free and protected against the violence of mobs and the organised influence of property. The Premier does not accept the finality principle in respect to constitutional changes. He regards as inevitable the extension of household suffrage to *counties*, as well as boroughs, which will make the protection of secret voting only the more necessary. Instead of enacting useless penalties against bribery and corruption he would prevent those evils by wise legislation.

The probable effect of the Ballot may be estimated by the action of the Opposition. When the question was under the consideration of a Parliamentary Committee, the Tory members rather coquetted with the Ballot, and showed an inclination to accept the principle provided it were not embodied in a stringent shape. They would agree to the Ballot without the secresy. This wavering tendency is now at an end. The Opposition leaders will oppose the Ballot in any shape. Their allies in the Upper House have unceremoniously expunged it from the Elementary Education Bill, and on Wednesday last Mr. Disraeli was full of gibes and sneers at the Premier's declaration. We are by no means sanguine that this reform, though accepted as a Cabinet question, will be carried next year. It may be rejected once and again by the Peers because it *will* afford some protection against "the organised influence of property"; and unless there should be a very decided pressure from without we may even go to another general election without this necessary security for the free exercise of the franchise.

ROME AND ITALY.

ONE of the first tangible results of the war between France and Germany agrees with general expectation. The French army is to be withdrawn from the Roman States. When the Emperor can muster 350,000 soldiers on the Rhine frontier, the force of 5,000 men stationed at Civita Vecchia can hardly be required at the immediate scene of hostilities. The recall of these troops must be due more to considerations of policy than to the exigencies of war. The rupture between France and Germany placed the Florence Government in a position of no little difficulty. Though the King, his court, and a considerable section of Italian politicians of the Marmora stamp, sympathise with the Emperor, popular feeling ran strongly in favour of Prussia. The "party of action" began to move, and so numerous have been the offers of assistance to Italy's ally in the last war, that the Prussian Ambassador was obliged to publish a circular to the effect that his Government, though thankful for sympathy, declined the aid of all foreign volunteers. General Menabrea represented to the Tuileries that his Cabinet was unable to answer for the consequences, and an order for the recall of the French troops was the result. In fact, a great portion of General Dumont's little army has already embarked for Marseilles.

As the price of this concession, the Cabinet of Florence has engaged scrupulously to execute the provisions of the September Convention, and to guard the Papal territory against Garibaldian or other attacks. Though the Italian army is to be placed upon a war footing, General Menabrea's engagement is one of extreme difficulty. It will be easier to withstand a handful of Republican volunteers than the full tide of national feeling bent on the acquisition of Rome. Should the Italian troops have to cross the frontier to put down invasion, they may hesitate to act against their own countrymen burning to avenge Mentana. At least they are not likely to recross the boundary line after such a service. What is to prevent the young men of Italy from swarming into the Eternal City and inciting the Romans to revolt? The Pontifical force which has been got together to defend the Pope is already greatly thinned by the retirement of Frenchmen and Germans, whose patriotism is more ardent than their devotion to the Holy See. Should the war on the Rhine last long the Papal force will probably melt away altogether. It is more than likely that at the first sign of real danger, Pius IX. and the Sacred College would simplify the situation by precipitate flight, in preference to the acceptance of protection from Victor Emmanuel.

The Supreme Pontiff years ago took refuge at Gaeta, and was brought back on French bayonets. He must be sanguine indeed to expect a similar result should he now think it expedient to retire to Malta. The proclamation of the dogma of Infallibility has deprived him of the sympathy of the Catholic Governments of Europe. Austria has given notice that she will abrogate the Concordat with Rome, and the most influential prelates of France are embittered by the usurpations of the Vatican. The fanaticism of Pius IX. has placed him in antagonism to every secular Government, and left him friendless in the hour of peril. Such policy is the acme of that infatuation which the Archbishop of Paris vainly went down on his knees before the Pope to prevent. To reinstate His Holiness in Rome after he had abandoned the Eternal City, would not enhance the prestige of Napoleon III., even if he should be victorious in the present war. The Pope, while usurping the highest spiritual attributes, has still tenaciously clung to material force. But the bayonets by which he has been hedged round are being withdrawn, and it remains to be seen whether he will prefer the protection of the despised King of Italy to the purely moral influence upon which he ostentatiously professes to rely.

The "Eldest Son of the Church," spite of Papal blessings and entreaties, has been driven by the stress of events to desert his ecclesiastical *protégé*. Spite of the ravings of the Paris Ultramontane journals, the news of the withdrawal of the army of occupation from the Papal States has been received with remarkable equanimity in France. In the tremendous death-struggle on the Rhine, the interests of the Pope are altogether forgotten. He is left to the protection of his Italian enemies, and the consolations of his own effete dogmas. Signor Lanza declares in the Florence Parliament that to denounce the September Convention at the present moment might prevent the evacuation which is desired by all Italians. In other words, the acquisition of Rome by Italy is only a question of time. Whether the price of this concession to Italian aspirations is the rigid neutrality or the active alliance of Italy with France, or further territorial sacrifices, the Sacred College may set their house in order, for the temporal power of the Pope is clearly doomed. He is the first victim of the great war of 1870.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE WAR.

THE King of Wurtemburg knew well what he was saying, when, the other day, he solemnly declared that, whatever might happen, his subjects were irretrievably ruined for twenty years to come. Free from the ambitious infatuation which has impelled Count Bismark to brave the impatient jealousy of the French Emperor, the Wurtemburg monarch is naturally enabled to predict, with some certainty, the social effects of the war, so far as his own kingdom is concerned. He asserts, and with good reason, that it will increase enormously the proportion of his subjects who emigrate to America. Even after the termination of the war, there will be a general desire to escape from the enormous and crushing burdens which it will leave behind as a legacy for generations yet to come. Already the losses and expenses entailed upon Europe during the last three or four weeks are estimated at several hundred millions sterling. But this is a mere nothing compared with the vast amount of social demoralisation of which the war has been the direct and prolific cause. The French are reported to be an habitually sober nation, but with the declaration of war a transformation seems to have taken place in them, and the worst scenes of Hogarth's period to have revived. The French soldiery have become drunk with wine and beer, as well as with the love of "glory." The spectacle presented during the departure of a regiment from Paris, is frequently of a most painful and ominous character. Not a few of the soldiers are in the later stages of inebriation, some being so far gone, that they have to be assisted onwards by their more sober comrades. As they proceed along the crowded boulevards, bottles of wine and brandy are continually pressed upon their acceptance by the tradesmen lining the route. No matter how intoxicated the men may be, there is no lack of drink at their command. The illustrated French prints contain abundant proofs of the prevalency of this plentifulness of beer and wine among the soldiery. There is scarcely a picture of a departure of troops in which the bottle is not introduced. One would almost imagine that the principal duty of the French soldier was not fighting, but drinking. On the railways things are still worse. Once in the carriages, the troops make short work of the bottles and flasks brought with them, and the journey becomes one long-continued round of revelry. Arrived at their destination, all order and discipline appear lost, and the officers have to wait until returning sobriety brings the men more under control.

This may appear somewhat incredible to many in this country, but it is not the less true. In France, soldiers ordered away to the war are always permitted a certain degree of latitude, which too frequently signifies licence. All the English newspaper correspondents concur in describing increased drunkenness in the French army as one of the immediate results of the present war. Unfortunately, it is the same in the German army, although not, perhaps, to the same extent. The consciousness that they are being made so much food for gunpowder seems to have rendered the soldiery on both sides utterly reckless, and to have developed their fiercer passions to a most alarming extent. God help the miserable inhabitants of the cities and towns which may be captured by either French or Prussians! It

will be like the letting loose of a legion of furious and merciless fiends upon the poor creatures. In the hot flush of victory, the maddened soldiers, panting with exertion, may too often forget that they are men, and act as if they were devils. It is the old story. War inevitably degrades man to the level of the brute. But this is not all. Before a shot was fired, before a single life had been sacrificed to sate the greedy appetite of the war demon, thousands of bright and happy homes had been rendered sad and joyless. As the trains bore away the troops of drunken soldiers from the Paris railway stations, the crowd of wives, mothers, and sisters returned frantically weeping to their cheerless abodes. When would the husbands, sons, and brothers again return? Who knows? Some might come back with, perhaps, only the loss of a limb, but of the many thousands who started so defiantly and noisily on what has been termed, with hideous sarcasm, the "pleasure trip to Ber lin," how many will not miserably perish on the picturesque shores of the beautiful but fatal river, whose silvery wave has so often been crimsoned with the blood of armies?

But it is in Germany that the effects of the war are pressing with most terrible severity. In that fair country, every man, no matter what his station, under the age of thirty-eight, is liable to serve in the army. It is this one fact which renders the idea of a United Germany so formidable to the peace of Europe, and proves such a tremendous weapon in the hands of an unscrupulous man like Bismark. In times of peace, the burden is little felt, but once sound aloud the rude blast of war, and there is scarcely a German town or village in which the notes do not produce consternation and despair. The farmer has to leave his fields, the mechanic his workshop, the clerk his desk, the artist his studio, the student his college, the tradesman his shop, and all merely to gratify the restless ambition and savage jealousies of a couple of rival potentates. The scenes thus occasioned are too often of a most heart-rending character. Husbands are suddenly torn from their families, who have nothing before them but ruin and starvation. There is scarcely time for parting. No wonder the heart-stricken wives follow their husbands, even into the very railway-stations, despite the efforts of grim-visaged military officials to keep them out. At Berlin, as a body of troops were leaving, their wives clung to them making their final adieus. Even after the train was in motion they still held to their hands, and one poor woman, still holding on, was pulled off her feet, and killed before her husband's eyes. The German correspondent of a London paper, writing from Coblentz, says:—"My tailor yesterday came to wish me good-bye in his uniform. 'I go,' he said, 'to Mainz; there will soon be an end of me.' This was accompanied by a significant movement of the finger towards the heart. 'How about your wife,' I asked. 'Aoh, Gott! she will be lucky if she gets a cup of cold water and a crust of bread.' My daily supply of artificial ice is stopped; the man who made it has gone, the man who delivered it has gone, and my 'Eis-schrank' has become an incumbrance. The man who used to drive me to Ems and who whistled all the way and cracked his whip as an accompaniment, has gone one way, his horses another: they will never meet again." Another correspondent, writing from Frankfort, says that when he arrived at Labnstein, he beheld the poor, square-faced sunburnt fellows, trying with a ghastly gaiety to vindicate their manhood by roaring out staves of patriotic songs, each couplet supplemented by a chorus of sobs from the women and girls clinging round them. So few minutes left, and so much to say before the parting that may be the last on earth! Scarcely was the parting over than a fresh batch of mobilised soldiers arrived. They were no sooner within the station than a most affecting scene ensued. The poor folks began to kiss and embrace one another almost desperately. "I wish," says the narrator, "never to hear again a sound like that which reached me from that platform. It was all over in a minute; the men got away somehow—I dare say they scarcely themselves knew how—from mothers, wives, sweethearts, and sisters, who were all thrust back to the inner part of the station; then half-a-dozen smart non-commissioned officers, one or two of whom quite simply put their coatsleeves up to their eyes as they stepped forward, came to the front, and told the draught off into the carriages; then the miserable women made a rush to the steps of the carriages, and—but I think I would rather not say anything more about the closing of this tragical scene, if you please." Comment on this is needless. It tells its own tale. Yet similar scenes are being almost hourly witnessed on the sunny banks of the syren river, whose luxuriant vines and waving cornfields are about to be cruelly trampled down by the feet of armed multitudes.

Travelling through the country, no matter in which direction, it everywhere becomes painfully evident that women will be almost the only harvesters. Everywhere the mills and workshops are stopped. The sounds of peaceful industry have become replaced by the clink of sabres and continual thud of muskets. At Saarbruck the coal mines are no longer worked. The miners have been transformed into soldiers, and their wives and families left to pine and starve at home. In France it is the same. In all the towns adjoining the frontier, manufacturing industry has wholly ceased. In Sarreguemines are great pottery works, which, only two or three weeks ago employed no less than 1,950 hands. Now the number is less than 150. Go where we wil the like results sternly confront us. Yet, in both Paris and Berlin, the cry is still for war. In the shop-windows, the pictures and caricatures breathe the all-prevailing sentiment—war, war, war. It meets us at every turn. Now in the shape of a new toy, now in the name of some fresh invention, now in a popular ballad, now in a startling telegram "from the front," but none seem to think of the heart weariness, the terrible anguish, which the mere rumour of a battle suffices to bring into thousands of homes. While the soldiers are bravely parading to the sounds of drums and fifes on the slaughter fields, their wives and little ones, their mothers and sisters, are weeping and moaning at home. And this is the result of our civilisation! In what respects are we, while such things are possible, superior to the heathen nations, upon whom we look down with such supreme contempt? It is most humiliating, most dispiriting, to think that such a useless and unchristian war could not be averted, that it should be in the power of two men to bid thousands of precious lives to be wasted, as if utterly valueless. Surely, the world must yet be in its infancy.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Princess Royal of England, it is announced, intends to pay a visit to Her Majesty; and the Warrior has left Spithead with a view of escorting Her Royal Highness to this country.

It has been definitely settled that the session shall close to-morrow week, the 11th of August, and Parliament will, if possible, be prorogued on that day.

Mr. George Mellish, Q.C., is to be the new Lord Justice of Appeal, in the room of the late Sir G. M. Giffard.

Failing health has compelled Professor J. E. Cairnes to send in his resignation of the Chair of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in this institution.

Lieut.-Colonel Elphinstone, Governor to Prince Arthur, and Mr. Donald M'Lean, member of the Executive Council of New Zealand, are gazetted Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Struck by Lightning.—A man and woman standing under a tree on Wandsworth Common were struck by the lightning on Wednesday morning. The man thus describes what took place:—The shock (he says) was something fearful. The electric fluid first caught his face, passed down his side, entered the left boot on the ankle, and passed out at the toe. He fell, and for some time remained insensible. On coming to himself, he found the woman lying near him with the whole of her clothes on fire. She had been struck upon the face, the lightning passing down her body. Two other persons were likewise thrown down, but sustained no injury beyond the shock. These immediately came to the assistance of the man and woman, and medical aid was procured. Ultimately they were conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital, and immediately attended by Mr. Thomas, the house surgeon, who found the woman to have sustained such dreadful injuries that doubts are entertained as to her recovery. Her hair is singed, and face, neck, cheat, legs, and other parts of her body fearfully burned. The whole of her clothes were destroyed. The man is severely injured about the feet and legs, and both remain in the hospital. A man named Henry Fisher was struck by lightning while passing along Wimbledon Common, and remained some time insensible. He is not, however, seriously injured. A telegram from Leicester states that that a terrible thunderstorm raged on Tuesday night at Woodhouse Eaves, near Loughborough. Two men, George Wright, aged 24, and Thomas Simpson, were in a field cutting oats when the storm came on, and they took shelter under an oak-tree. Wright was struck by lightning, and he instantly fell dead at Simpson's feet. Simpson went for his master, who returned to move the body, and found the poor fellow's head was badly cut, being nearly split in two; some of his hair was singed, and his body was much blackened. A sheep was killed by lightning in the adjoining field

THE WAR.

(*Continued from page 735.*)

FRENCH EVACUATION OF ROME.

In the Florence Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, in reply to a question of Signor Laporta, Signor Visconti-Venosta stated that the French Government had officially notified the Cabinet of Florence that France was disposed to revert to the September Convention by withdrawing her troops from Rome. The Italian Government had taken note of this determination, declaring at the same time that Italy, having never, as far as he was concerned, given notice of withdrawal from the Convention, would continue thoroughly to execute its provisions, reckoning upon a reciprocal scrupulousness on the part of France in observing her own engagements.

General Dumont has received orders to concentrate the French division at Civita Vecchia, to be ready for embarkation at the first signal. A considerable portion of the force has already left for France.

The Paris *Patrie* says the announcement of the recall of the French troops has been well received at the Vatican. France has received personal assurances from King Victor Emmanuel that Rome should be respected, and the September Convention scrupulously observed. If, however, contrary to expectation, Garibaldian bands should be formed, they would be immediately dissolved by the regular troops.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"It is strongly reported that the Pope has declared his intention of retiring to Malta as soon as his French protectors shall abandon him. Various versions are current of the understanding that exists. Some say that Italian troops are to garrison Rome, with a pledge of withdrawing when required. This would be very like giving up the Pope altogether. On the other hand, it is said that the Italian Government binds itself to respect Papal territory and to guard it against Garibaldian or other attacks, while the Pontifical troops are to keep the Romans in order. I suspect the Pope's army to have been greatly lessened by the war. Numbers of the French and Germans serving in it have returned to their own countries to join a more creditable service."

GERMAN COMPLAINTS OF ENGLAND.

The *New Prussian* (*Cross*) *Gazette* of July 27 refers to the disclosures recently made with regard to the French offer of alliance to Prussia, and asks whether neutral England will still continue to allow her manufacturers to provide weapons for the French, and her shipowners to let their vessels be chartered for transporting the requirements of the French navy. The *Cross Gazette* adds: "We hope that England will now open her eyes and cast aside the French spectacles which make coal appear to her not to be contraband of war. Germany expects England to do her duty. Without coals from Newcastle the French fleet cannot remain in the Baltic."

In the *North German Gazette* complaint is made of the manner in which Great Britain is observing the obligations of neutrality. Englishmen, it says, are executing orders for cartridges; England is turned into an arsenal close to the French frontier; and the British Government does nothing.

THE PROJECTED TREATY.

On Thursday night Earl Granville read to the House of Lords the following note, transmitted by telegram, and dated July 28th:—

You will communicate to Lord Granville the following, reserving a further written explanation. The draught of treaty published in the *Times* contains one of the numerous propositions which have been made to us since the Danish conflict up to recent times, though unofficial and non-official French agents, in order to bring about a treaty between Prussia and France, for the object of mutual aggrandisement. I shall send to you the tenor of another proposal made to us in June, 1866, also proposing an offensive and defensive alliance, according to which France promised us the aid of 300,000 men against Austria, and an aggrandisement of six or eight millions for the cession of a tract of land between the Rhine and Moselle. The impossibility for me to agree to such propositions was clear to everybody, with the sole exception of French diplomacy. After we had refused to agree to this or other propositions, in June, 1866, the French Government began to speculate upon our defeat, and the profit it might derive from it, and to prepare it diplomatically. Since the 'patriotic pang' of M. Rouher, France never ceased to lead us into temptation by propositions at the expense of Germany and Belgium. For the sake of peace I kept the secret, and treated the propositions in a dilatory manner. When the more modest French designs with reference to Luxembourg had been counteracted by events which are publicly known, the more extensive propositions, embracing Belgium and Southern Germany, were renewed. It is at this time, 1867, that Count Benedetti's manuscript was communicated to me. That the French Ambassador should have drawn up this draft with his own hand, and repeatedly conferred with me on the subject, without the consent of his Sovereign, is improbable. The different phases of French discontentment and warlike inclinations which we experienced from 1866 up to the Belgian railway question coincided with the inclination or reluctance the French agents expected to meet with on my part regarding these transactions. The final conviction that no territorial aggrandisement for France could be obtained with our co-operation has undoubtedly confirmed the resolution to gain it by war against us. I have some reason to believe that if the publication had not taken place, France would have proposed to us, after the completion of her own and of our preparations for war, to enforce Count Benedetti's programmes, at the head of the two armies, against unarmed Europe; that is to say, to conclude peace at the expense of Belgium. The draught of treaty which is in our hands, and which Lord Augustus Loftus has seen, is from beginning to end, including the

corrections, in Count Benedetti's own handwriting, well known to the English Ambassador. If the French Cabinet now decries tendencies for which it has constantly tried to obtain our consent since 1864 by varying promises and demands, this seems very natural under the present political circumstances.

His Lordship also read the following despatch he had sent to Lord Lyons, dated—

Foreign Office, July 29, 1870.

My Lord,—The French Ambassador called on me on the 28th inst., for the purpose of communicating to me the purport of a despatch which had been addressed to His Excellency by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the pretended draught treaty published in the *Times*. In that despatch, which M. de Lavalette was good enough to read to me, the Duke de Gramont observed that the very form in which this treaty was drawn up, and the terms in which it was couched, showed clearly whence it came, and can deceive no one. Those who have watched the course of European affairs since the accession to office of M. de Bismark are aware from which side have come those suggestions which are now attributed to France. Ever since the year 1865 M. de Bismark has constantly endeavoured to carry out his own plans by endeavouring to turn the attention of the French Government to territorial aggrandisement. He told M. de Lefebre de Behaine, the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, that Prussia would willingly recognise the right of France to extend her borders wherever the French language is spoken, thereby indicating certain Swiss cantons besides Belgium. These overtures the Government of the Empire declined to entertain. The following year, immediately after the battle of Sadowa, similar proposals were made at Brunn to M. de Behaine, and on this occasion Count Bismark told him that the course of France was clear. The French Government should go to the King of Belgium, and explain that the inevitable increase to Prussian territory and influence was most disquieting to their security, and that the sole means of avoiding these dangerous issues would be to unite the destinies of Belgium and France by bonds so close that the Belgian monarchy, whose autonomy would, however, be respected, would become in the north a real bulwark of safety to France. Further, reporting a conversation with Count Bismark in July, 1866, the French Ambassador informs his Government that he reported nothing new in stating that M. de Bismark is of opinion that compensation should be sought by the French in Belgium, and offered to come to an understanding on the subject. The Government of the Emperor, the Duke de Gramont went on to say, declined to listen to these proposals; and when, at a later period, they sought a rectification of their frontiers, they expressly declined to mention even the name of Belgium. The Duc de Gramont then points out that if such designs against Belgium had really been entertained by his Government, it would have been easy to carry them out with the proffered assistance of Prussia, who was only anxious to secure the fruits of her victories. These suggestions were made at the time of the Luxembourg affair. They were unwillingly received, and categorically rejected by the Emperor. Finally, the Marquis de Lavalette was instructed formally to assure Her Majesty's Government that in these proposals the initiative was entirely taken by the Prussian Cabinet. M. de Lavelette then informed me that he had received instructions by telegraph to acquaint me that the document in the handwriting of M. Benedetti was written by him under the dictation of Count Bismark, who wished to entangle the French Government in a conspiracy against the liberties of Belgium, and that then, as at other times, the scheme was positively rejected.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

M. Emile Ollivier has written a letter to a friend in England on the subject of the treaty. His statement is that it was not negotiated by the Cabinet formed on the 2nd of last January. The only negotiations that Cabinet has had with Prussia have been indirect, Lord Clarendon being the intermediary. Their object was to assure the peace of Europe by a reciprocal disarmament. M. Ollivier, in conclusion, says that he has no secret policy, and that he does not consider might superior to right.

The full text of Count Bismark's communication to the North German Ambassador in London was printed on Monday. It is an amplification of the above telegram, but there are one or two additional statements, which may be given in the Prussian Premier's own words:—"In Article 1 of the Treaty," Count Bismark says, "Count Benedetti, at the very first reading, withdrew the closing passage, placing it in brackets, after I had remarked that it presupposed the interference of France in the internal affairs of Germany, which I, even in private documents, could not allow. Of his own accord he made an unimportant marginal correction in Article 2 in my presence." The words placed in brackets in Article 1 are printed in italics:—

His Majesty the Emperor of the French admits and recognises the acquisitions which Prussia has made as the result of the last war she sustained against Austria and her allies [*as also the arrangements adopted or to be adopted for constituting a Confederation in North Germany, engaging, at the same time to render his support for the maintenance of that work.*]

In concluding his despatch, Count Bismark says:—

I had never any doubt as the impossibility of acceding to any such offers [as those of France], but I considered it useful in the interests of peace to permit the French statesmen to hold these illusions peculiar to them so long as it should be possible so to do without giving even a verbal assent to their propositions. I imagined that the annihilation of the French hopes would endanger the preservation of peace, the maintenance of which was in the interest both of Germany and Europe. I was not of the opinion of those politicians who considered it unadvisable to shun by all the means in one's power a war with France, on the ground that such a war was in any case unavoidable. No one can so clearly foresee the designs of Divine Providence, and I look upon even a victorious war as an evil in itself which the statesmanship of a country must strive to spare its people. I could not in my calculations leave out the possibility that, in the constitution and policy of France, changes might arise which would relieve the two great neighbouring people from the necessity of war—a hope which was favoured by each postponement of the rupture. For these reasons I was silent about the propositions made, and delayed the negotiations about them, without ever on my side giving a promise. After the negotiations with His Majesty the King of Netherlands fell, as is well known, to the ground, extended proposals were again addressed to me by France, including in their purport Belgium and South Germany. At this conjuncture comes the communication of the Benedetti manuscript. . . . I am under the impression that it was only the definite conviction that no enlargement of the frontiers was to be achieved with us that has led the Emperor to the determination to strive to obtain it against us. I have besides reason to believe that, had the publication in question not been made, so soon as our and the French preparations for war were complete, propositions would have been made to us by France, jointly, and at the head of a million armed men, to carry out against unarmed Europe the proposals formerly made to us, and either before or after the first battle to conclude peace on the basis of the Benedetti proposals, and at the expense of Belgium.

M. Benedetti has written a long letter to the Duke de Gramont, in which he gives his account of the manner in which the famous "treaty" was drawn up. M. Benedetti freely admits that the document now in the possession of the Foreign Office at Berlin is in his handwriting, but he declares that it was written in order that he might the "more clearly comprehend the combinations" proposed by Count Bismark. The treaty was submitted to both the King and the Emperor, and neither of them agreed to it.

M. Louis Blanc writes a long letter to the *Temps* on the subject of the secret treaty, by which he says all England has been profoundly moved. "Most people," he says, "are inclined to believe in it, and their indignation is inexpressible. It must be remarked, in fact, that the English quiver with rage at the very idea of the maritime power which the possession of Antwerp would give to so near a neighbour as France, though they affect not to comprehend the anxiety which France experiences when she sees Prussia aggrandising herself at her doors in so prodigious and so sudden a manner. There is not a single Englishman whose sentiments were not expressed by Mr. Disraeli when he exclaimed, 'I should regard the prospect of the extinction of the Belgian kingdom as a calamity for Europe and a blow at England.'" Nor (M. Blanc goes on to remark) were the cheers which greeted this declaration more vigorous than those which were evoked by Mr. Disraeli's reference to the obligations imposed upon England by the engagements of 1831.

It is officially stated that the conversation reported by the *Daily Telegraph* is in so far correct that Count Bismark said: "Not one foot of territory, whether Prussian or neutral, can I surrender"; but it is formally denied that he hinted to the Emperor that some territorial concessions might be made to France in case Prussia should be allowed to make further acquisitions.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

COUNT BISMARK.—It is said that Count Bismark hands the reins of the Foreign Office to M. de Thile, and joins his regiment of Cuirassiers. His two sons are also in active service.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S SECOND DAUGHTER.—At the Princess Alice's palace there is a party composed of ladies making bandages out of old soft linen, &c. The Princess, it is said, is one of the most industrious. The ball-room is half full of stuff for making these bandages.—*Letter from Darmstadt.*

A GRIM FACT.—A curious fact, resulting from the mobilisation of the Bavarian army, is worthy of your notice. Three of the principal performers in the great mystery play at the Ammergau, about which so much has lately been written, have been called in to one of the infantry regiments. The representatives of Christ, St. John, and St. Matthew, are now under arms, marching towards the western frontier.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.—A Brussels correspondent, writing last Wednesday night, says:—"People here are asking one another with amazement what may be the real meaning of the words used by M. de Lavalette in his conversation with Lord Granville, 'France has always respected Belgian neutrality, even when she had reason to complain of the attitude of Belgium.' No one here knows why or when France ever had to complain of Belgium."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE COST OF WAR.—Already the expenses of the war surpass the enormous sum of a million a day; the war allowance to the regular army, dating from the day on which the Landwehr was called out, amounts to nearly a hundred thousand pounds per diem. Firms of the highest character are failing in every direction; the blow inflicted upon Frankfort alone is one from which this wealthy city will suffer terribly for years to come. And yet Germany's sorrows are but incubating.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

A SAD PREPARATION.—Germany has, in her solid, calm manner, arranged that each wife and mother shall speedily know the best or the worst about those who go to fight "with God, for King and Fatherland." Slips of parchment, like luggage-labels, have been prepared, on which the name of each German soldier is plainly written; and one of these will be fastened inside his coat when he goes into action. After the day is decided, the enemy, if he be master of the field, will be requested to collect and return these labels, of which about a million have been provided.

A LADY CAMPAIGNER.—A lady enters the hotel looking for a bed; she is dressed in a simple robe of black serge and is decorated. She has made the campaigns of Crimea and Italy with her husband, not as *cantiniere*, but as amateur sister of mercy, volunteer nurse in the hospitals. Her husband is dead, but she has adopted the sick and wounded of the army he belonged to as her care, and means to make this campaign with the ambulances. Bravo woman!—*Letter from the Army.*

MARRIAGES AND WAR.—On Sunday last a great number of military weddings were performed here and at Altona, by express permission of the King, and the special relaxation of the standing order that the banns must be published three times. From Berlin we learn that on the same day in the garrison church in that city, more than a hundred soldiers and their betrothed were bound together in holy matrimony. The object appears to be that though they will necessarily be separated from their young wives during the honeymoon, the husbands have the satisfaction of knowing that in case of their being killed the widows will be adequately provided for by their grateful country.—*Letter from Hamburg.*

THE DESTRUCTION OF KEHL BRIDGE.—The destruction of the bridge between Kehl and Strasburg was owing to a misunderstanding, or rather a misreading of a telegram. The engineer officer on duty at Kehl received a despatch from Berlin, "Mine the bridge across the Rhine." As the bridge had been mined for several days, he naturally concluded that the telegram meant that the mine was to be lighted; he put the electric battery to work, and the bridge, one of the noblest engineering works in Europe, is now, at least on the German side, a heap of ruins. The work of destruction had barely been completed before he received a second despatch from Berlin, "On no account fire the mine until further orders." His dismay can be imagined.—*Letter from Metz.*

AMATEUR ARMY NURSES.—A letter from Strasbourg, in the *Siècle*, says women are arriving there in large numbers to act as infirmary nurses. They come from all parts—French, Italians, English, and even Americans. For some of these ladies, particularly for one American, the idea of the picturesque has had something to do with their determination. She is not averse to have her portrait published in a costume which reminds one more of an amazon than an attendant on the sick—a grey felt hat with a white feather; a black tunic confined at the waist by a belt of varnished leather, with a silver buckle; loose black trousers fastened just below the knee, and Hessian boots with white spurs. She has also three horses—one for herself, another to carry the medicines, and a third for her servant.

GENERAL COUNT MOLTKE.—The general has become more taciturn than ever, and as this is well known scarcely anybody ever speaks to him, but everybody waits until he speaks. People here are so accustomed to his peculiarities and solitary habits, evidently the result of constant pondering over his duties, that they even feign not to see him when he passes. Yet he can express himself very fluently and very clearly on occasion, as I myself can testify, having heard him once explain the topography of the seat of the Danish war. Some few days ago the tacit convention was broken by an individual who claims to be one of the grandees of the Bourse. "Well," he said on meeting the general in the street, "how are things getting on, general?" "Thank you, sir," replied the general, "my rye crops are getting on beautifully, but my potatoes are very backward." The Bourse gentleman disappeared.—*Letter from Berlin.*

THE GRACES OF WAR.—A correspondent of the *Temps*, writing from Metz, states that among the prisoners taken by the French in the skirmish at Niederbronn were two officers of the Baden army, who upon their arrival in Metz were lodged at the Hôtel de l'Europe, where the correspondent himself was dining. These officers were about to join the *table d'hôte*, when a messenger arrived from Marshal Lebœuf to bring them to his quarters; and an hour afterwards they were seen to return from the dinner-table each with a lady on his arm, one being the wife of the Marshal. "I must not," adds the correspondent," conceal the fact that a group of officers who were taking their coffee upon the terrace were rather dissatisfied with this good-natured action of the Major-General of the army. There exists in certain military circles of high rank a strong feeling against Prussia and her allies."

HANOVERIAN TREASON.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"In one province alone there exists a class of 'Irreconcilables.' In Hanover a few noblemen have been arrested on the charge of high treason. Though the large majority of Hanoverians have long espoused the national cause with which Prussia is identified, some brave but romantic men remain attached to the former Government, and will act up to their convictions. Besides the two Hanoverian noblemen arrested at Weimar and Strelitz, three more have been detected and handed over to the judicial authorities at Hildesheim, Bremerhafen, and Osnabrück. The names of the prisoners are Herr von Hartwig, Herr von Issendorf (both captains in the late Hanoverian army), and Herr von Bremer, late Privy Councellor in the service of King George. A Countess Kielmansegge has been likewise arrested on her estate, Blumenau, near Harburg, her husband having, it is said, effected his escape just in time. The prisoners are all said to be persons of the highest respectability."

PRUSSIAN MARITIME ARMAMENTS.—To increase the naval forces of the country during the war the King offers to charter and arm at his expense any number of ships that will take part in the pending hostilities. The crews will have to be supplied by the owners subject to the approval of Government. They will wear the uniform of the Federal navy, and be treated in every respect on an equal footing. If a ship thus chartered be injured or destroyed, she will be paid for by the Government; if, on the other hand, she

will be like the letting loose of a legion of furious and merciless fiends upon the poor creatures. In the hot flush of victory, the maddened soldiers, panting with exertion, may too often forget that they are men, and act as if they were devils. It is the old story. War inevitably degrades man to the level of the brute. But this is not all. Before a shot was fired, before a single life had been sacrificed to sate the greedy appetite of the war demon, thousands of bright and happy homes had been rendered sad and joyless. As the trains bore away the troops of drunken soldiers from the Paris railway stations, the crowd of wives, mothers, and sisters returned frantically weeping to their cheerless abodes. When would the husbands, sons, and brothers again return? Who knows? Some might come back with, perhaps, only the loss of a limb, but of the many thousands who started so defiantly and noisily on what has been termed, with hideous sarcasm, the "pleasure trip to Berlin," how many will not miserably perish on the picturesque shores of the beautiful but fatal river, whose silvery wave has so often been crimsoned with the blood of armies?

But it is in Germany that the effects of the war are pressing with most terrible severity. In that fair country, every man, no matter what his station, under the age of thirty-eight, is liable to serve in the army. It is this one fact which renders the idea of a United Germany so formidable to the peace of Europe, and proves such a tremendous weapon in the hands of an unscrupulous man like Bismark. In times of peace, the burden is little felt, but once sound aloud the rude blast of war, and there is scarcely a German town or village in which the notes do not produce consternation and despair. The farmer has to leave his fields, the mechanic his workshop, the clerk his desk, the artist his studio, the student his college, the tradesman his shop, and all merely to gratify the restless ambition and savage jealousies of a couple of rival potentates. The scenes thus occasioned are too often of a most heart-rending character. Husbands are suddenly torn from their families, who have nothing before them but ruin and starvation. There is scarcely time for parting. No wonder the heart-stricken wives follow their husbands, even into the very railway-stations, despite the efforts of grim-visaged military officials to keep them out. At Berlin, as a body of troops were leaving, their wives clung to them making their final adieus. Even after the train was in motion they still held to their hands, and one poor woman, still holding on, was pulled off her feet, and killed before her husband's eyes. The German correspondent of a London paper, writing from Coblentz, says:—"My tailor yesterday came to wish me good-bye in his uniform. 'I go,' he said, 'to Mainz; there will soon be an end of me.' This was accompanied by a significant movement of the finger towards the heart. 'How about your wife,' I asked. 'Ach, Gott! she will be lucky if she gets a cup of cold water and a crust of bread.' My daily supply of artificial ice is stopped; the man who made it has gone, the man who delivered it has gone, and my 'Eis-schrank' has become an incumbrance. The man who used to drive me to Ems and who whistled all the way and cracked his whip as an accompaniment, has gone one way, his horses another: they will never meet again." Another correspondent, writing from Frankfort, says that when he arrived at Lahnstein, he beheld the poor, square-faced sunburnt fellows, trying with a ghastly gaiety to vindicate their manhood by roaring out staves of patriotic songs, each couplet supplemented by a chorus of sobs from the women and girls clinging round them. So few minutes left, and so much to say before the parting that may be the last on earth! Scarcely was the parting over than a fresh batch of mobilised soldiers arrived. They were no sooner within the station than a most affecting scene ensued. The poor folks began to kiss and embrace one another almost desperately. "I wish," says the narrator, "never to hear again a sound like that which reached me from that platform. It was all over in a minute; the men got away somehow—I dare say they scarcely themselves knew how—from mothers, wives, sweethearts, and sisters, who were all thrust back to the inner part of the station; then half-a-dozen smart non-commissioned officers, one or two of whom quite simply put their coatsleeves up to their eyes as they stepped forward, came to the front, and told the draught off into the carriages; then the miserable women made a rush to the steps of the carriages, and—but I think I would rather not say anything more about the closing of this tragical scene, if you please." Comment on this is needless. It tells its own tale. Yet similar scenes are being almost hourly witnessed on the sunny banks of the syren river, whose luxuriant vines and waving cornfields are about to be cruelly trampled down by the feet of armed multitudes.

Travelling through the country, no matter in which direction, it everywhere becomes painfully evident that women will be almost the only harvesters. Everywhere the mills and workshops are stopped. The sounds of peaceful industry have become replaced by the clink of sabres and continual thud of muskets. At Saarbruck the coal mines are no longer worked. The miners have been transformed into soldiers, and their wives and families left to pine and starve at home. In France it is the same. In all the towns adjoining the frontier, manufacturing industry has wholly ceased. In Sarreguemines are great pottery works, which, only two or three weeks ago, employed no less than 1,950 hands. Now the number is less than 150. Go where we wil the like results sternly confront us. Yet, in both Paris and Berlin, the cry is still for war. In the shop-windows, the pictures and caricatures breathe the all-prevailing sentiment—war, war, war. It meets us at every turn. Now in the shape of a new toy, now in the name of some fresh invention, now in a popular ballad, now in a startling telegram "from the front," but none seem to think of the heart weariness, the terrible anguish, which the mere rumour of a battle suffices to bring into thousands of homes. While the soldiers are bravely parading to the sounds of drums and fifes on the slaughter fields, their wives and little ones, their mothers and sisters, are weeping and moaning at home. And this is the result of our civilisation! In what respects are we, while such things are possible, superior to the heathen nations, upon whom we look down with such supreme contempt? It is most humiliating, most dispiriting, to think that such a useless and unchristian war could not be averted, that it should be in the power of two men to bid thousands of precious lives to be wasted, as if utterly valueless. Surely, the world must yet be in its infancy.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Princess Royal of England, it is announced, intends to pay a visit to Her Majesty; and the Warrior has left Spithead with a view of escorting Her Royal Highness to this country.

It has been definitely settled that the session shall close to-morrow week, the 11th of August, and Parliament will, if possible, be prorogued on that day.

Mr. George Mellish, Q.C., is to be the new Lord Justice of Appeal, in the room of the late Sir G. M. Giffard.

Failing health has compelled Professor J. E. Cairnes to send in his resignation of the Chair of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in this institution.

Lieut.-Colonel Elphinstone, Governor to Prince Arthur, and Mr. Donald M'Lean, member of the Executive Council of New Zealand, are gazetted Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Struck by Lightning.—A man and woman standing under a tree on Wandsworth Common were struck by the lightning on Wednesday morning. The man thus describes what took place:—The shock (he says) was something fearful. The electric fluid first caught his face, passed down his side, entered the left boot on the ankle, and passed out at the toe. He fell, and for some time remained insensible. On coming to himself, he found the woman lying near him with the whole of her clothes on fire. She had been struck upon the face, the lightning passing down her body. Two other persons were likewise thrown down, but sustained no injury beyond the shock. These immediately came to the assistance of the man and woman, and medical aid was procured. Ultimately they were conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital, and immediately attended by Mr. Thomas, the house surgeon, who found the woman to have sustained such dreadful injuries that doubts are entertained as to her recovery. Her hair is singed, and face, neck, chest, legs, and other parts of her body fearfully burned. The whole of her clothes were destroyed. The man is severely injured about the feet and legs, and both remain in the hospital. A man named Henry Fisher was struck by lightning while passing along Wimbledon Common, and remained some time insensible. He is not, however, seriously injured. A telegram from Leicester states that that a terrible thunderstorm raged on Tuesday night at Woodhouse Eaves, near Loughborough. Two men, George Wright, aged 24, and Thomas Simpson, were in a field cutting oats when the storm came on, and they took shelter under an oak-tree. Wright was struck by lightning, and he instantly fell dead at Simpson's feet. Simpson went for his master, who returned to move the body, and found the poor fellow's head was badly cut, being nearly split in two; some of his hair was singed, and his body was much blackened. A sheep was killed by lightning in the adjoining field

THE WAR.

(*Continued from page* 735.)

FRENCH EVACUATION OF ROME.

In the Florence Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, in reply to a question of Signor Laporta, Signor Visconti-Venosta stated that the French Government had officially notified the Cabinet of Florence that France was disposed to revert to the September Convention by withdrawing her troops from Rome. The Italian Government had taken note of this determination, declaring at the same time that Italy, having never, as far as he was concerned, given notice of withdrawal from the Convention, would continue thoroughly to execute its provisions, reckoning upon a reciprocal scrupulousness on the part of France in observing her own engagements.

General Dumont has received orders to concentrate the French division at Civita Vecchia, to be ready for embarkation at the first signal. A considerable portion of the force has already left for France.

The Paris *Patrie* says the announcement of the recall of the French troops has been well received at the Vatican. France has received personal assurances from King Victor Emmanuel that Rome should be respected, and the September Convention scrupulously observed. If, however, contrary to expectation, Garibaldian bands should be formed, they would be immediately dissolved by the regular troops.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"It is strongly reported that the Pope has declared his intention of retiring to Malta as soon as his French protectors shall abandon him. Various versions are current of the understanding that exists. Some say that Italian troops are to garrison Rome, with a pledge of withdrawing when required. This would be very like giving up the Pope altogether. On the other hand, it is said that the Italian Government binds itself to respect Papal territory and to guard it against Garibaldian or other attacks, while the Pontifical troops are to keep the Romans in order. I suspect the Pope's army to have been greatly lessened by the war. Numbers of the French and Germans serving in it have returned to their own countries to join a more creditable service."

GERMAN COMPLAINTS OF ENGLAND.

The *New Prussian* (*Cross*) *Gazette* of July 27 refers to the disclosures recently made with regard to the French offer of alliance to Prussia, and asks whether neutral England will still continue to allow her manufacturers to provide weapons for the French, and her shipowners to let their vessels be chartered for transporting the requirements of the French navy. The *Cross Gazette* adds: "We hope that England will now open her eyes and cast aside the French spectacles which make coal appear to her not to be contraband of war. Germany expects England to do her duty. Without coals from Newcastle the French fleet cannot remain in the Baltic."

In the *North German Gazette* complaint is made of the manner in which Great Britain is observing the obligations of neutrality. Englishmen, it says, are executing orders for cartridges; England is turned into an arsenal close to the French frontier; and the British Government does nothing.

THE PROJECTED TREATY.

On Thursday night Earl Granville read to the House of Lords the following note, transmitted by telegram, and dated July 28th:—

You will communicate to Lord Granville the following, reserving a further written explanation. The draught of treaty published in the *Times* contains one of the numerous propositions which have been made to us since the Danish conflict up to recent times, though unofficial and non-official French agents, in order to bring about a treaty between Prussia and France, for the object of mutual aggrandisement. I shall send to you the tenor of another proposal made to us in June, 1866, also proposing an offensive and defensive alliance, according to which France promised us the aid of 300,000 men against Austria, and an aggrandisement of six or eight millions for the cession of a tract of land between the Rhine and Moselle. The impossibility for me to agree to such propositions was clear to everybody, with the sole exception of French diplomacy. After we had refused to agree to this or other propositions, in June, 1866, the French Government began to speculate upon our defeat, and the profit it might derive from it, and to prepare it diplomatically. Since the 'patriotic pang' of M. Rouher, France never ceased to lead us into temptation by propositions at the expense of Germany and Belgium. For the sake of peace I kept the secret, and treated the propositions in a dilatory manner. When the more modest French designs with reference to Luxembourg had been counteracted by events which are publicly known, the more extensive propositions, embracing Belgium and Southern Germany, were renewed. It is at this time, 1867, that Count Benedetti's manuscript was communicated to me. That the French Ambassador should have drawn up this draft with his own hand, and repeatedly conferred with me on the subject, without the consent of his Sovereign, is improbable. The different phases of French discontentment and warlike inclinations which we experienced from 1866 up to the Belgian railway question coincided with the inclination or reluctance the French agents expected to meet with on my part regarding these transactions. The final conviction that no territorial aggrandisement for France could be obtained with our co-operation has undoubtedly confirmed the resolution to gain it by war against us. I have some reason to believe that if the publication had not taken place, France would have proposed to us, after the completion of her own and of our preparations for war, to enforce Count Benedetti's programmes, at the head of the two armies, against unarmed Europe; that is to say, to conclude peace at the expense of Belgium. The draught of treaty which is in our hands, and which Lord Augustus Loftus has seen, is from beginning to end, including the

corrections, in Count Benedetti's own handwriting, well known to the English Ambassador. If the French Cabinet now decries tendencies for which it has constantly tried to obtain our consent since 1864 by varying promises and demands, this seems very natural under the present political circumstances.

His Lordship also read the following despatch he had sent to Lord Lyons, dated—

Foreign Office, July 29, 1870.

My Lord,—The French Ambassador called on me on the 28th inst., for the purpose of communicating to me the purport of a despatch which had been addressed to His Excellency by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the pretended draught treaty published in the *Times*. In that despatch, which M. de Lavalette was good enough to read to me, the Duke de Gramont observed that the very form in which this treaty was drawn up, and the terms in which it was couched, showed clearly whence it came, and can deceive no one. Those who have watched the course of European affairs since the accession to office of M. de Bismark are aware from which side have come those suggestions which are now attributed to France. Ever since the year 1865 M. de Bismark has constantly endeavoured to carry out his own plans by endeavouring to turn the attention of the French Government to territorial aggrandisement. He told M. de Lefebre de Behaine, the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, that Prussia would willingly recognise the right of France to extend her borders wherever the French language is spoken, thereby indicating certain Swiss cantons besides Belgium. These overtures the Government of the Empire declined to entertain. The following year, immediately after the battle of Sadowa, similar proposals were made at Brunn to M. de Behaine, and on this occasion Count Bismark told him that the course of France was clear. The French Government should go to the King of Belgium, and explain that the inevitable increase to Prussian territory and influence was most disquieting to their security, and that the sole means of avoiding these dangerous issues would be to unite the destinies of Belgium and France by bonds so close that the Belgian monarchy, whose autonomy would, however, be respected, would become in the north a real bulwark of safety to France. Further, reporting a conversation with Count Bismark in July, 1866, the French Ambassador informs his Government that he reported nothing new in stating that M. de Bismark is of opinion that compensation should be sought by the French in Belgium, and offered to come to an understanding on the subject. The Government of the Emperor, the Duke de Gramont went on to say, declined to listen to these proposals; and when, at a later period, they sought a rectification of their frontiers, they expressly declined to mention even the name of Belgium. The Duc de Gramont then points out that if such designs against Belgium had really been entertained by his Government, it would have been easy to carry them out with the proffered assistance of Prussia, who was only anxious to secure the fruits of her victories. These suggestions were made at the time of the Luxembourg affair. They were unwillingly received, and categorically rejected by the Emperor. Finally, the Marquis de Lavalette was instructed formally to assure Her Majesty's Government that in these proposals the initiative was entirely taken by the Prussian Cabinet. M. de Lavalette then informed me that he had received instructions by telegraph to acquaint me that the document in the handwriting of M. Benedetti was written by him under the dictation of Count Bismark, who wished to entangle the French Government in a conspiracy against the liberties of Belgium, and that then, as at other times, the scheme was positively rejected.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

M. Emile Ollivier has written a letter to a friend in England on the subject of the treaty. His statement is that it was not negotiated by the Cabinet formed on the 2nd of last January. The only negotiations that Cabinet has had with Prussia have been indirect, Lord Clarendon being the intermediary. Their object was to assure the peace of Europe by a reciprocal disarmament. M. Ollivier, in conclusion, says that he has no secret policy, and that he does not consider might superior to right.

The full text of Count Bismark's communication to the North German Ambassador in London was printed on Monday. It is an amplification of the above telegram, but there are one or two additional statements, which may be given in the Prussian Premier's own words:—"In Article 1 of the Treaty," Count Bismark says, "Count Benedetti, at the very first reading, withdrew the closing passage, placing it in brackets, after I had remarked that it presupposed the interference of France in the internal affairs of Germany, which I, even in private documents, could not allow. Of his own accord he made an unimportant marginal correction in Article 2 in my presence." The words placed in brackets in Article 1 are printed in italics:—

His Majesty the Emperor of the French admits and recognises the acquisitions which Prussia has made as the result of the last war she sustained against Austria and her allies [*as also the arrangements adopted or to be adopted for constituting a Confederation in North Germany, engaging, at the same time to render his support for the maintenance of that work.*]

In concluding his despatch, Count Bismark says:—

I had never any doubt as the impossibility of acceding to any such offers [as those of France], but I considered it useful in the interests of peace to permit the French statesmen to hold these illusions peculiar to them so long as it should be possible so to do without giving even a verbal assent to their propositions. I imagined that the annihilation of the French hopes would endanger the preservation of peace, the maintenance of which was in the interest both of Germany and Europe. I was not of the opinion of those politicians who considered it unadvisable to shun by all the means in one's power a war with France, on the ground that such a war was in any case unavoidable. No one can so clearly foresee the designs of Divine Providence, and I look upon even a victorious war as an evil in itself which the statesmanship of a country must strive to spare its people. I could not in my calculations leave out the possibility that, in the constitution and policy of France, changes might arise which would relieve the two great neighbouring people from the necessity of war—a hope which was favoured by each postponement of the rupture. For these reasons I was silent about the propositions made, and delayed the negotiations about them, without ever on my side giving a promise. After the negotiations with His Majesty the King of Netherlands fell, as is well known, to the ground, extended proposals were again addressed to me by France, including in their purport Belgium and South Germany. At this conjuncture comes the communication of the Benedetti manuscript. . . . I am under the impression that it was only the definite conviction that no enlargement of the frontiers was to be achieved with us that has led the Emperor to the determination to strive to obtain it against us. I have besides reason to believe that, had the publication in question not been made, so soon as our and the French preparations for war were complete, propositions would have been made to us by France, jointly, and at the head of a million armed men, to carry out against unarmed Europe the proposals formerly made to us, and either before or after the first battle to conclude peace on the basis of the Benedetti proposals, and at the expense of Belgium.

M. Benedetti has written a long letter to the Duke de Gramont, in which he gives his account of the manner in which the famous "treaty" was drawn up. M. Benedetti freely admits that the document now in the possession of the Foreign Office at Berlin is in his handwriting, but he declares that it was written in order that he might the "more clearly comprehend the combinations" proposed by Count Bismark. The treaty was submitted to both the King and the Emperor, and neither of them agreed to it.

M. Louis Blanc writes a long letter to the *Temps* on the subject of the secret treaty, by which he says all England has been profoundly moved. "Most people," he says, "are inclined to believe in it, and their indignation is inexpressible. It must be remarked, in fact, that the English quiver with rage at the very idea of the maritime power which the possession of Antwerp would give to so near a neighbour as France, though they affect not to comprehend the anxiety which France experiences when she sees Prussia aggrandising herself at her doors in so prodigious and so sudden a manner. There is not a single Englishman whose sentiments were not expressed by Mr. Disraeli when he exclaimed, 'I should regard the prospect of the extinction of the Belgian kingdom as a calamity for Europe and a blow at England.'" Nor (M. Blanc goes on to remark) were the cheers which greeted this declaration more vigorous than those which were evoked by Mr. Disraeli's reference to the obligations imposed upon England by the engagements of 1831.

It is officially stated that the conversation reported by the *Daily Telegraph* is in so far correct that Count Bismark said: "Not one foot of territory, whether Prussian or neutral, can I surrender"; but it is formally denied that he hinted to the Emperor that some territorial concessions might be made to France in case Prussia should be allowed to make further acquisitions.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

COUNT BISMARK.—It is said that Count Bismark hands the reins of the Foreign Office to M. de Thile, and joins his regiment of Cuirassiers. His two sons are also in active service.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S SECOND DAUGHTER.—At the Princess Alice's palace there is a party composed of ladies making bandages out of old soft linen, &c. The Princess, it is said, is one of the most industrious. The ball-room is half full of stuff for making these bandages.—*Letter from Darmstadt.*

A GRIM FACT.—A curious fact, resulting from the mobilisation of the Bavarian army, is worthy of your notice. Three of the principal performers in the great mystery play at the Ammergau, about which so much has lately been written, have been called in to one of the infantry regiments. The representatives of Christ, St. John, and St. Matthew, are now under arms, marching towards the western frontier.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.—A Brussels correspondent, writing last Wednesday night, says:—"People here are asking one another with amazement what may be the real meaning of the words used by M. de Lavalette in his conversation with Lord Granville, 'France has always respected Belgian neutrality, even when she had reason to complain of the attitude of Belgium.' No one here knows why or when France ever had to complain of Belgium."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE COST OF WAR.—Already the expenses of the war surpass the enormous sum of a million a day; the war allowance to the regular army, dating from the day on which the Landwehr was called out, amounts to nearly a hundred thousand pounds per diem. Firms of the highest character are failing in every direction; the blow inflicted upon Frankfort alone is one from which this wealthy city will suffer terribly for years to come. And yet Germany's sorrows are but incubating.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

A SAD PREPARATION.—Germany has, in her solid, calm manner, arranged that each wife and mother shall speedily know the best or the worst about those who go to fight "with God, for King and Fatherland." Slips of parchment, like luggage-labels, have been prepared, on which the name of each German soldier is plainly written; and one of these will be fastened inside his coat when he goes into action. After the day is decided, the enemy, if he be master of the field, will be requested to collect and return these labels, of which about a million have been provided.

A LADY CAMPAIGNER.—A lady enters the hotel looking for a bed; she is dressed in a simple robe of black serge and is decorated. She has made the campaigns of Crimea and Italy with her husband, not as *cantiniere*, but as amateur sister of mercy, volunteer nurse in the hospitals. Her husband is dead, but she has adopted the sick and wounded of the army he belonged to as her care, and means to make this campaign with the ambulances. Bravo woman!—*Letter from the Army.*

MARRIAGES AND WAR.—On Sunday last a great number of military weddings were performed here and at Altona, by express permission of the King, and the special relaxation of the standing order that the banns must be published three times. From Berlin we learn that on the same day in the garrison church in that city, more than a hundred soldiers and their betrothed were bound together in holy matrimony. The object appears to be that though they will necessarily be separated from their young wives during the honeymoon, the husbands have the satisfaction of knowing that in case of their being killed the widows will be adequately provided for by their grateful country.—*Letter from Hamburg.*

THE DESTRUCTION OF KEHL BRIDGE.—The destruction of the bridge between Kehl and Strasburg was owing to a misunderstanding, or rather a misreading of a telegram. The engineer officer on duty at Kehl received a despatch from Berlin, "Mine the bridge across the Rhine." As the bridge had been mined for several days, he naturally concluded that the telegram meant that the mine was to be lighted; he put the electric battery to work, and the bridge, one of the noblest engineering works in Europe, is now, at least on the German side, a heap of ruins. The work of destruction had barely been completed before he received a second despatch from Berlin, "On no account fire the mine until further orders." His dismay can be imagined.—*Letter from Metz.*

AMATEUR ARMY NURSES.—A letter from Strasbourg, in the *Siècle*, says women are arriving there in large numbers to act as infirmary nurses. They come from all parts—French, Italians, English, and even Americans. For some of these ladies, particularly for one American, the idea of the picturesque has had something to do with their determination. She is not averse to have her portrait published in a costume which reminds one more of an amazon than an attendant on the sick—a grey felt hat with a white feather; a black tunic confined at the waist by a belt of varnished leather, with a silver buckle; loose black trousers fastened just below the knee, and Hessian boots with white spurs. She has also three horses—one for herself, another to carry the medicines, and a third for her servant.

GENERAL COUNT MOLTKE.—The general has become more taciturn than ever, and as this is well known scarcely anybody ever speaks to him, but everybody waits until he speaks. People here are so accustomed to his peculiarities and solitary habits, evidently the result of constant pondering over his duties, that they even feign not to see him when he passes. Yet he can express himself very fluently and very clearly on occasion, as I myself can testify, having heard him once explain the topography of the seat of the Danish war. Some few days ago the tacit convention was broken by an individual who claims to be one of the grandees of the Bourse. "Well," he said on meeting the general in the street, "how are things getting on, general?" "Thank you, sir," replied the general, "my rye crops are getting on beautifully, but my potatoes are very backward." The Bourse gentleman disappeared.—*Letter from Berlin.*

THE GRACES OF WAR.—A correspondent of the *Temps*, writing from Metz, states that among the prisoners taken by the French in the skirmish at Niederbronn were two officers of the Baden army, who upon their arrival in Metz were lodged at the Hôtel de l'Europe, where the correspondent himself was dining. These officers were about to join the *table d'hôte*, when a messenger arrived from Marshal Lebœuf to bring them to his quarters; and an hour afterwards they were seen to return from the dinner-table each with a lady on his arm, one being the wife of the Marshal. "I must not," adds the correspondent, conceal the fact that a group of officers who were taking their coffee upon the terrace were rather dissatisfied with this good-natured action of the Major-General of the army. There exists in certain military circles of high rank a strong feeling against Prussia and her allies."

HANOVERIAN TREASON.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"In one province alone there exists a class of 'Irreconcilables.' In Hanover a few noblemen have been arrested on the charge of high treason. Though the large majority of Hanoverians have long espoused the national cause with which Prussia is identified, some brave but romantic men remain attached to the former Government, and will act up to their convictions. Besides the two Hanoverian noblemen arrested at Weimar and Strelitz, three more have been detected and handed over to the judicial authorities at Hildesheim, Bremerhafen, and Osnabrück. The names of the prisoners are Herr von Hartwig, Herr von Issendorf (both captains in the late Hanoverian army), and Herr von Bremer, late Privy Councellor in the service of King George. A Countess Kielmansegge has been likewise arrested on her estate, Blumenau, near Harburg, her husband having, it is said, effected his escape just in time. The prisoners are all said to be persons of the highest respectability."

PRUSSIAN MARITIME ARMAMENTS.—To increase the naval forces of the country during the war the King offers to charter and arm at his expense any number of ships that will take part in the pending hostilities. The crews will have to be supplied by the owners subject to the approval of Government. They will wear the uniform of the Federal navy, and be treated in every respect on an equal footing. If a ship thus chartered be injured or destroyed, she will be paid for by the Government; if, on the other hand, she

capture or destroy a hostile vessel, she will receive a premium of 50,000 thalers for an iron-cased frigate, 30,000 thalers for an iron-cased corvette or ram, 20,000 thalers for an iron battery, 15,000 thalers for a screw vessel, and 10,000 thalers for a screw of smaller dimensions. If a ship is neither herself injured nor successful in injuring the enemy, she must content herself with the pay of her crew and with a hire amounting to one-tenth her value, which is awarded on the charter-party being signed.—*Letter from Berlin.*

The Poles in Prussian Poland.—A correspondent at Posen, writing on the 22nd, gives the following description of the public feeling in that province:—"The news of the declaration of war has produced a most painful effect on the people here, who, being Poles, are naturally unwilling to fight against their old allies, and have no sympathy whatever for the Prussian Government. On all sides you hear nothing but cries and lamentations from the parents and relations of men about to leave for the field. The Poseners have had enough sad experience of local insurrections to prevent them from attempting a rising, even should the Prussians be defeated; but though they are excellent soldiers, and greatly distinguished themselves in the last Danish war, it may be doubted whether Prussia could rely upon them if they were confronted with those whom a national tradition has long taught them to look forward to as their deliverers. As for the German population of Posen, it strives to counteract the general depression by isolated outbursts of enthusiasm, which, however, only bring the surrounding gloom into stronger relief. I should add, in justice to the Poles, that, with one or two exceptions, they have made no opposition to these patriotic demonstrations."

French Soldiers on their Travels.—A correspondent of a French paper wonders that no accident happens on the railway line to the eastern frontier. The number of trains alone is sufficiently dangerous, but the conduct of the soldiers is also imprudent in the extreme. They seldom stay long in the carriages, but climb upon them, and stand on the roof, singing vociferously. When a bridge or tunnel appears they lie flat down, but only to rise again. To all remonstrances they make the convincing answer, "*Vive la France!*" "*A bas la Prusse!*" The *Presse* gives an account of an episode which occurred at the Eastern Railway Station on the departure of the 3rd Regiment of Voltigeurs. Just as they reached the station a private carriage drove up, from which came an elderly gentleman, wearing a decoration, who immediately commenced taking from a huge sack parcels of tobacco, which he handed in succession to the soldiers, amid the cheers of the assembled crowd. At length, having exhausted his sack, and many of the men yet remaining unserved, he went up to the colonel and told him that he had exhausted the stocks of all the tobacco-shops in the quarter to fill his bag, but had not been able to procure enough for the whole regiment; finally, he begged him to accept 200 louis, in order to purchase tobacco for them, and handed him 4,000 francs in gold, which the colonel, after some hesitation, accepted, and thanked him on behalf of the men.

King William leaving Berlin.—Detachments of troops were passing all day down the Lime-tree-walk, and at two o'clock the King drove through the streets to the station in a Russian drosky, and was received with uncovered heads and a buzzing sort of suppressed cheer as he passed. He "looked every inch a king," plumed and helmeted in strictest soldier tunic—a real *ανὴρ ἀνδρῶν* of the days when kings led subjects to battle. What a fine old head and front it is! The stamp of Imperator is there already, and it would not surprise one very much to learn that in an hour of stress that old man, with his piercing blue eye and open brow, and fine lip curved under his massive white moustache, would cut the Gordian knot of a Constitution with a swift, sure sword. Certainly he is not the sort of man one would like to worry *coram populo* in a watering-place. And then he has a faith; "he believes," and he is sure that He in whom he believes has placed his cause beyond the reach of human harm. It is observed, nevertheless, that the King is not in his usual joyous spirits. He speaks with devout confidence, and trusts in the justice of his quarrel; but His Majesty is grave. The Crown Prince, too, seems, it is said, to feel the influence of the tremendous events which are impending, and surely, if the designs of Prussia were warlike, the Royal family cannot have regarded them with favour or have participated in the desire for a conflict which causes them so much anxiety, although they do not express any apprehensions as to the ultimate result.—*Letter from Berlin.*

A German Farewell.—This morning (July 23) the transport of the reserve from Berlin began at an early hour. Those who compose it have been concentrating here during the past few days. The strength of the entire force is now very large. The reserve is being despatched to different parts of the country. This evening all the railways are to be taken possession of by the authorities for purely military purposes, and will not be opened to the public again till the transport of stores and troops is completed. The scene at the Potsdam station when the first train left was a very painful one. Hundreds of women had assembled to bid farewell to their fathers, husbands, or sons. Many a volunteer who had resolved upon going to the war was adjured at the last moment by a heart-stricken mother to change his mind and remain behind. The scene was one which it was most trying to witness as it is difficult to depict. The sorrowing women did all they could to postpone the moment for saying the last farewell. Even the officials hesitated to give the order to start. The station-master had to resort to a stratagem. He said that the train must go, but that those who wished might accompany it in some trucks, and bid good bye at another station. The trucks were crowded with women in the course of a few moments. The engine started at a slow pace, and before many yards had been traversed the couplings were unloosed and the train sped away, leaving the trucks behind.—*Letter from Berlin.*

Calling-out of the Garde Mobile.—The Emperor's incognito departure from Paris produced a bad effect among the lower orders, who infer from it that he did not go willingly, that his health is bad, and indulge in other unfavourable suppositions. It excited remark also that he did not mount his horse to make his entrance into Metz, but went from the railway-station in an open carriage. There was, however, heavy rain at the time. It is beyond a doubt that the calling-out of the Garde Mobile has caused much distress and discontent throughout the country. It was a hard wrench to part with the reserves, but with the Mobile the case is worse, and a bad spirit seems to prevail in that force, which the Republican party doubtless does its utmost to heighten. The papers have been requested not to speak of it, but it is a fact that on Thursday night, when the first battalion of the Garde Mobile went off by railway to Chalons, seditious cries were heard to proceed both from the soldiers and from a great crowd which assembled to see them depart. There were shouts of "Down with Napoleon!" "*Vive la République!*" "*A bas Ollivier!*" "*Les Ministres à Cayenne,*" and the mob sang obscene abuse of the Government to the hackneyed revolutionary air of *Les Lampions.* The Mobile will be subjected to rigorous discipline, and as soon as its military education is sufficiently advanced, it will be sent to the frontier to replace the troops that will have marched thence. I cannot say much for its appearance at present, for it consists in great part of puny undersized individuals who look neither soldierly nor at their ease in new uniforms that don't fit them. A few months' drill is likely to work a great change.—*Letter in the Times.*

A Village Muster for the War.—At two o'clock this morning (July 22), we were awakened by drums at the gates. It was the "appell" for the men to march. We got up and dressed, and went down to the market-place. Day was just beginning to dawn; a wild stormy morning, with black clouds hanging all over the sky. The whole place was in uproar, and women and children all streaming towards the market-place, where a band of music was playing national airs. P. went down with us in a perfect glow of enthusiasm, and burning to be off, but with the other poor fellows there were more tears and sobs than there was enthusiasm, for a great many of them leave wife and children behind. It was a scene I never shall forget. The men, between fifty and sixty, were assembled in the market-place; the gentlemen hastily made a subscription so that each poor man might at least have a few shillings in his pocket; and then they were told that we promised to care for their families in their absence or in the case of their not returning. The clergyman of the place mounted on a cart and made a short farewell address, and ended by reading the 46th Psalm, "Gott ist unsere Zuversicht und Stärke; eine Hülfe in den grossen Nöthen, die uns getroffen," &c. Then the Lord's Prayer was offered up, and amid cheers and sobs the poor fellows went off. They were to have marched to Braunschweig, but the neighbouring farmers had all turned out with their carts to drive them there. Now our chief thought is to care for those that are left behind and to prepare for the wounded. We have promised to subscribe so much a week, and we have been telling the servants that we must agree to certain household retrenchments, so that each one may feel he is doing something.—*Letter from a small town in Brunswick.*

A Scene at Cologne Station.—Here might be seen a band of sunburnt young fellows, fresh from their now-deserted corn-fields, each with his little bundle and inevitable pipe, some singing snatches of patriotic songs, others, bearing medals on their blouses, boisterously greeting their former comrades. Here, seated on a bench, is a young mother hushing a little child, who stares astonished and a little frightened at the noise and bustle around it. The soldier by her side is too excited by the patriotic enthusiasm of those around him to feel very deeply the bitterness of parting; he thinks not of shot and shell, of hospital and battle-field; but she, though she struggles bravely for his sake to share his hopes, has evident difficulty in checking the natural tear. Groups of men in uniform form in lines to make way for the conscripts and for the reserve men going to join their regiments. Quiet and composed are these as compared with the noisy fellows around them; but I noticed many a hearty greeting as some former friend was recognised, and I heard many a fervent wish that success might still attend them in the new campaign. The great mass of people in the station were tourists, gamblers, invalids, and residents of every nation under the sun, flying from the supposed imminent danger of war. Most of them were moving with all their household goods about them—beds and bedsteads, perambulators, and various articles of furniture being frequent in the piles of baggage; while the purely British bath occupied its usual proud and prominent position. The soldiers were nearly all bound for Coblentz. Fine, sturdy men they are; it is impossible not to contrast them favourably with the general run of French soldiers of the line. Prussians may be wanting in that indescribable, indefinite quality called "*élan.*" They may not be very nimble in movement or rapid in attack, but they are strong, broad-shouldered, stubborn men, who will require a great deal of pushing to make them move, and who possess in an eminent degree the dogged courage and untiring energy that scarcely recognise defeat.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

The Enthusiasm in Germany.—There can be no question as to the resolute enthusiasm, not only of Germany, but of Germans everywhere, in regard to the war. Fervent greetings by telegram, announcing large collections of war contributions many thousand miles across the seas, arrive almost daily in Berlin; while there is now hardly a town or hamlet in Germany without a committee of women fully prepared to enter upon their sacred mission at the first word of command. The columns of the German papers are crowded with offers of money and money's worth from private individuals for French guns or standards captured in the field. People send their silver spoons and even their watches "to be melted into groschen, leaving it to those who have gold things to send to the Mint to do their duty with regard to gold coinage." The women and children of the poorer soldiers are taken care of by the civil authorities, who are overwhelmed with private subscriptions. Of other incidents of the last few days may be mentioned the arrival in Berlin of a band of German volunteers from Paris, consisting chiefly of students and merchants, who entered the town singing "Die Wacht am Rhein," and bearing the North German flag, with the inscription, "From Paris to Berlin, there and back, the sons of Germany." At Berlin the police had to hold a razzia of a singular kind. No less than twenty-one boys had hidden themselves away in the railway-carriages which were to take a portion of the troops to the Rhine, and loud were their lamentations at being forcibly prevented from "going to the war." Some of them were mere children. The universities and the academies are nearly all closed, or on the point of closing, because their students have exchanged their books for arms, and the upper classes of the gymnasiums are emptying as fast as the final examinations can be hurried through, and the members of the upper classes sent off to join the army long before their "regulation" time, since there is no holding them back in any way.

The First Victims of the War.—In a letter from Metz, published in *Le Soir*, M. Edmond About gives some details respecting the skirmish near Niederbronn. "I saw," he says, "at the Sarreguemines railway-station the two officers who were taken prisoners—MM. Weechmar and De Wullier. The shortest and the youngest is a youth with pleasing, mild features. He, together with his companion in misfortune, belonged to a *corps d'élite* of the Baden army. The taller one has a heavy beard and a stern eye. He cast terrible glances at some officers of the 12th Chasseurs who alighted from the same train. I can understand his angry mood. If he has not 'rotted on our dungheaps,' according to the poetical expression of Ernest L'Epine, he has taken a deep draught from the farmyard drain, and the recollection of that liquid, so dear to our farmers, may well have lingered in his mind. Our officers were not only full of respect for this almost comical misfortune, but with exquisite courtesy they turned away their heads and passed before their prisoners without noticing them. Such a mark of delicacy would suffice to make us love France if we had not a thousand other reasons for adoring her. The two wounded men are also Badese officers. They are being cared for at Wauxhall, the assembly-rooms for the Niederbronn visitors. One has been shot through the leg, but his life is in no danger. He seems consoled, if not satisfied, for a misfortune which has closed the campaign for him. The other lies in a very dangerous condition, having received several balls in the thigh and abdomen. The officer who was killed, Mr. Winslor, or rather Winslow, was an Englishman in the service of the Grand Duke of Baden. When the Queen recently commanded all her subjects to observe the strictest neutrality, she did not foresee that one of them would be the first victim of the Franco-Germanic conflict. The unfortunate young man whose career has been terminated by a Chassepot ball had the air of a perfect gentleman. Besides his mother tongue, he spoke admirably both French and German. It is said that a sum of 15,000f. was found upon him. He died after twelve hours' suffering of so severe a character as almost to prevent him from listening to the consolations of the Pasteur of Niederbronn. A sixth officer, M. Zeplin, who commanded the reconnoitring party, escaped without a scratch, and was thus enabled to convey to the enemy the information of which it was in search."

The Fast Day at Frankfort.—To-day (the 27th of July) the shops are closed, and the churches are open. This is due to the King of Prussia's proclamation, enjoining that Wednesday, the 27th of July, was to be set apart as a day of special prayer. It is at all times very difficult to decide how far religious observances, performed in obedience to a decree, accurately reflect the opinions of a people. In the present case, outward indications seem to warrant the conclusion that the inhabitants of Frankfort are predisposed to do what their King has commanded. I walked through the principal streets this morning without finding the shutters removed from the windows of a single shop of any size. But on closer inspection I perceived numerous traces of a desire to make the best of matters, to give token of devout obedience to a command, and yet to lose no opportunity for doing business. While the shutters covered the windows, the doors were not closed. No real obstacle was placed in the way of purchasers. At the same time the streets were crowded with persons hurrying towards the churches. Entering one of the largest, I found that nearly every seat was occupied, but I also remarked that the congregation was chiefly composed of ladies. The proportion of the female to

the male worshippers was as three to one. Nor was this surprising. The number of men now in the field must sensibly affect the relative proportion of the sexes in a city like this. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives are ready to join in any work which may be deemed likely to bring a blessing upon those who have gone forth to the fight. Of the services I need say but little. As is common in German churches, the most impressive part is the singing. The fine old hymns, set to simple but very effective music, are always sung by a German congregation with an earnestness and a correctness which produce an extremely fine result. On this occasion they all sang as if their hearts were in the work. To many Luther's grand hymn appeared to express, in perfect language, the feelings which animated the congregation. If I had heard any preacher of note I might have made some remarks on his sermon. The preacher in the church to which I refer was one of the ordinary German clergymen. Though he was very earnest, he did not exhibit marked powers of oratory. On such an occasion as this, however, the congregation could well dispense with rhetorical effects. The German people require to be soothed into patience rather than stirred to action. They already feel almost too deeply the importance of the crisis through which they are passing. They manifest an eagerness almost excessive to bring the state of suspense to an end by some great stroke of war.—*Letter from Frankfort.*

THE FRENCH PEOPLE AND THE EMPEROR'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY.—If there were still sceptics among us as regards the importance of the coming struggle, the proclamation of the Emperor to the army must have gone far to undeceive them. His language is manly and earnest, and he certainly neither dissembles nor dissimulates the perils of the undertaking. The war, so he tells his soldiers, will be a "long and a difficult one." It is to be waged against "one of the best armies of Europe, in a country bristling with fortresses and military obstacles." It is undertaken for the defence of the soil and honour of France. You will notice, also, that he has not failed at the close to appeal to one of our most cherished national illusions, that he declares that "on the success of our arms depends the fate of civilisation and of liberty." There is no leading on French soldiers without telling them that they are freeing and civilising those whom they are shooting down. Apart from this little bit of necessary nonsense, there is no fault to be found with the proclamation, and it contrasts very favourably with the bombastic trash which fills our newspapers. A long war France never bargained for, and although she might very well stand it, I much doubt whether the Empire could. Napoleon must know this as well as anybody, and has, I dare say, already drawn up in fancy the articles of the treaty of peace—*à la* Villafranca—which he means to conclude, as a surprise for Europe, after some splendid victory. To return to the Bourgeois. If he has been startled by the tone of the Emperor's proclamation, he was no less so on learning that the fortifications of Paris were to be put in readiness. The fortifications, with their grassy vestment, seemed but a verdant girdle put round the most pleasure-loving and pleasure-giving capital in the world. To the lower classes they represented only a zone beyond which rent and wine (untouched by *octroi* dues) were cheaper; for the more wealthy "beyond the fortifications" meant merely the Bois de Boulogne, with its pretty cascades and its charming lakes. And now to think of drawbridges and cannon, and to see trees cut down and villas destroyed by the order of ruthless engineers. This is, indeed, bringing war home to us. Besides, when would the fortifications come into use? is the natural inquiry. After the iron frontier of France has been forced; after, at least, three great battles have been fought and lost; after all the natural defenders of the soil have been drained off and vanquished, and when the defence will fall upon the National Guard. Things will have come to a bad pass with us if we ever have to fall back on the fortifications of Paris, and to trust to the heroism of the shopkeepers of a wealthy and luxurious capital. No wonder, then, that the announcement that the fortifications of Paris were to be put in a state of preparation has created an unpleasant sensation.—*A Frenchman in the Times.*

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPEROR AT METZ.—In a letter to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, 'Azamat Ba'uk" says:—"The Emperor arrived at half-past six o'clock at the *grande gare*, near the Porte-Serpenoise and the camp bearing the same name. The crowd assembled around the station was very large, but consisted exclusively of the lower classes, perhaps because a very heavy rain fell to the very moment the Imperial train reached the station. The more wealthy classes remained in the town, crowding all the streets down to the Préfecture, where the Emperor is staying. He drew up in an open carriage with three of his generals, of whom I could recognise only two—Marshal Lebœuf and General Frossard, late tutor of the heir apparent, and now commander of the 2nd Corps d'Armée. The second carriage contained the young Prince Imperial (who looked exceedingly weak), the stout Prince Napoleon (who looked exceedingly healthy), and a couple of generals more. Marshal Bazaine had a third carriage all to himself. Since I last saw the Emperor, which was about two years ago, he has greatly changed. He looks quite an old man. His head is sunk deep into his shoulders, and the great coat that he wore suggested that he had great need of preserving his body from the influences of a damp evening. As a matter of course, everybody was in military uniform, and a detachment of the Cent Gardes preceded and followed the Imperial *cortège*, affording endless themes to the wit of the crowd. The splendid horses, the well-fed appearance of the guards themselves, as well as their rich uniforms, were found equally appropriate for this purpose. One the *blouses* standing close to me expressed his anxiety to know whether these men would be still called the Hundred Guards after a few of them had been shot, or whether they would change their denomination according to the real number under arms. To this question one of the soldiers standing close by philosophically answered that they were not at all likely to decrease in number, for, with the splendid liveries they wore, they would never be allowed to get into a scrape. This is a very fair specimen of the jokes uttered on all sides by the male part of the crowd. The female part was chiefly busying itself with the Prince Imperial. As far as I could make out, the young Prince is very popular, and the anxiety of the crowd to see him was much greater than even that of seeing his father. No special display of flags and colours was possible; the supply was already exhausted. Every house has been adorned with them since the beginning of the war. An illumination of a few Governmental buildings was all that could be devised in the way of an additional display of patriotism, if we put aside the usual cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' 'Vive le Prince Impérial!' and 'Vive la France!' The Emperor declined, it seems, to have music before his residence, and the crowd walked up and down till a late hour at night without seeing anything beyond a few generals going in and out. Early this morning His Majesty started on an inspection of the camps round the town, and is not expected back till late at night."

THE NEEDLE-GUN AND THE CHASSEPOT.—The official reports are unanimous in praising the efficiency of the needle-gun as pitted against the Chassepots in these premonitory brushes. From the casualties recorded it would, indeed, seem the Germans had the best of it each time an attack was forced upon them; but whether this result is attributable to the superiority of their arm, or to the mettle of the men who used it, or the hundred additional circumstances influencing the issue of a fight, is more than can be determined at present. For the benefit of your non-military readers I may as well repeat that the Chassepot has a longer range, but less precision, than the Prussian arm. The Chassepot has an incipient velocity of 1,328 feet per second, the needle-gun of only 990; but the semi-diameter of the scattering circle at a distance of 300 paces is as much as 13½ inches in the case of the former, and only 7½ inches in that of the latter. This circumstance, coupled with the fact that the range of the needle-gun is quite as far as the eye can aim with anything like accuracy, leaves it a match for its further-shooting rival. Again, the Chassepot allows of about ten or eleven, the needle-only of seven or eight, discharges per minute; but, as to fire even seven effective rounds is beyond the capacity of the ordinary soldier, the advantage the Chassepot has in this respect is rather imaginary than practical. It is, moreover, counterbalanced by a serious drawback. In rapid fire the Chassepot barrel has, after twelve or fourteen rounds, to be cleared of the remnants of cartridges. A really strong point of the Chassepot, the smallness of its calibre, which permits a Frenchman to carry ninety-three cartridges against the seventy-two lodged in the German pouch, has been likewise secured for all those specimens of the needle-gun which have already undergone the repairs recently adopted. If the number of guns thus remodelled is probably not very large at present, it will increase every week. Besides, the smaller number of cartridges is a disadvantage which tells considerably less against a German soldier than it would against a Frenchman. Far from being taught to blaze away as rapidly as possible, the German soldier is educated not to use his rifle, except when he has a fair aim; and as the instances rarely occur when "quick fire" can be of any good, troops no longer fighting in massed columns, the German soldier upon the whole has been found to have enough and to spare in his seventy-two shots. To meet extraordinary exigencies, however, an additional allotment of cartridges is sometimes carried in the knapsacks. All things considered, then, the two weapons are about on a par with each other and equalise the chances of the combat. Of course, this assertion holds good only if the Chassepot, which has not yet been used in a fight of any magnitude, stands the test of battle as well as the needle-gun did in 1866.—*Letter from Berlin.* A private letter from an Oxford man, dated "Saarbrücken, Friday, 28th," says:—"I can't help reiterating that in all the shooting there has yet been, the Prussians have had out and out the best of it. Nothing could be worse than the Chassepot at short ranges. We see the Frenchmen spitting on their cartridges, sticking their fingers into their guns, and giving every possible sign that, after a few shots, the Chassepot gets so foul they don't know how to treat it."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Patrie* says that nearly 300 ecclesiastics are to accompany the French army.

Kabylia is in a state of great excitement. All the Kabyles wish to fight on the French side, and several new regiments of Turcos have been formed.

The invasion of Luxemburg by French troops turns out to have been a descent of unarmed soldiers in search of sugar and tobacco!

The French propose to begin immediately a series of experiments with the electric light for naval engagements by night.

Count Walewski has left the French Embassy for France, to take up his command as an officer of the Garde Mobile.

A Berlin letter says that in several parts of Holstein French spies have been taken into custody. At Ludwigshafen, in the Bavarian Palatinate, a lady likewise attracted the attention of the police, and on closer examination was discovered to be a French officer.

Telegrams are continually arriving at Berlin from the German colonies in all parts of the world, expressing the sympathy and hearty good wishes of the senders.

A correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* states that the inhabitants of the little town of Osterode have offered a reward of 10,000 thalers to whoever shall take the Emperor of the French, dead or alive.

It seems that a perfect regiment of American journalists have come to Paris in the expectation of being allowed to follow the army, and are immeasurably disgusted at finding all permission refused.

It is announced that French subjects and their interests, in those countries where diplomatic relations are broken off, have been placed under British protection.

The Prussian war loan of 15,000,000*l.* sterling is to be subscribed throughout Germany on the 3rd of August. The rate of interest, it is stated, will be 5 per cent., and the price 88.

According to a circular of Messrs. Arles Dufour and Co., of Lyons, the outbreak of war, "as lamentable as unexpected," has nearly stopped all transactions in the silk markets at that city.

The Emperor, according to the *Gaulois*, has published an order of the day, recommending to the soldiers "calm and moderation" on the field of battle.

Enormous, and probably unprecedented, shipments of coffee to France have been made during the past few days with a view to escape the increased Customs duty which will soon be levied under the war budget.

The effect of the revelations relative to the proposed secret treaty has been to create a panic among all the English residents in France, and a general flight of British subjects has commenced from Paris and other French towns.

The French Government have authorised the formation of an American Legion of 500 men for French service, all of whom are to be Americans, excepting the commander, who will be a Frenchman nominated by the Minister of War.

A committee of ladies, with the Countess Bernstorff at their head, has been established in London for the purpose of raising a fund to afford help to the sick and wounded among the Prussian army during the war.

It is officially announced that three of the French officers at Metz were struck by lightning the day before the Emperor arrived. The subjects of this misfortune were Captains Acaries, Duquesnay, and Beillet. It does not appear that the lives of the three officers are considered to be in danger.

Two Prussians who have been working for some little time past in the gardens attached to Sandringham House, the Norfolk residence of the Prince of Wales, have left for the seat of war. Both these men formerly worked in the Royal gardens at Potsdam.

It is said that when the reserves of the 34th Pomeranian Regiment of Infantry were leaving Stettin it was discovered that there were ten men more than the number called for. These ten men refused to return home, and it was necessary to give them peremptory orders to do so.

M. Paul de Cassagnac, of the ultra-Imperialist paper the *Pays*, demands that the French Government, in imitation of the Roman people, shall appoint prefects to Mayence, Trèves, and Cologne, without waiting to conquer them; and in a fine fit of enthusiasm he cries, "Peasants of Champagne, if you want manure send your carts to the frontier for Prussians!"

The *Times* correspondent at Paris denies that 100,000 men have enlisted as volunteers. 50,000 would be nearer the mark, and perhaps rather over it. At the same time, this is a very handsome figure to have been attained to in less than a fortnight. The volunteer engages himself only for the duration of the war.

Another meeting of German residents in London, for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of sufferers by the war, was held at the Cannon-street Hotel yesterday. It was stated that the amount collected before and during the meeting was upwards of 16,000*l.* One of the speakers referred to the secret treaty as showing the good faith which Prussia has exhibited towards England, pointing out the fact as a reason why English sympathies should go with Germany.

The special correspondent of the *Times* at Berlin writes:—"Lord Augustus Loftus has received an official communication from Baron Thile to the effect that the King's Government has resolved not to permit any foreign correspondents to go with the armies into the field, considering the danger which may arise from the transmission of news relating to military operations. This answer has been communicated to those interested, and of course Lord A. Loftus cannot interfere with the discretion of Ministers in such a question. Exceptions may be made on special or personal grounds, but they are within the powers of the Prussian Government, without any control from outside or any responsibility to others, and the King and his Ministers can, of course, determine whom they will and whom they will not exclude."

HAMBURG AND THE WAR.—The steamer Lincoln, which arrived at Grimsby on Saturday night from Hamburg, reports that that city resembles a vast barrack, from its being so full of soldiers, luggage, and commissariat stores. The soldiers are constructing a pontoon bridge over the Elbe to Hanover, near Goose Island. Fifteen ships laden

with stone are moored across the Channel with orders from the Prussian Government to scuttle them should the French fleet threaten to enter the Elbe.

The Guarantee of Belgium.—It may, perhaps, be worth while to recal the provisions of the treaty of 1831, by which the neutrality of Belgium was established. The parties to the treaty were Austria, France, Russia, Prussia, and Great Britain, and it was agreed between them that Belgium should form an independent and perpetually neutral State, bound to observe the same neutrality towards all the other States. Article 27 proclaims peace and amity between the King of the Belgians and the other Sovereigns, their heir and successors, their States and subjects, respectively, for ever.

The French Conscription.—The "blood tax," which was so ardently inveighed against in the elections just a year ago, is already beginning to press with doubled severity on the French nation. The drawing of the conscription, which in the ordinary course of events would not have been due till January, 1871, is advanced by five months, and is to take place next week. The market price of food for powder has also been doubled. The sum required for exemption from the conscription was formerly 50*l*., it is now raised to 100*l*. This will prove beyond the means not merely of peasants and proletaires, but of the great mass of lower middle class alike in town and country.

The Caricaturists and the War.—The Berlin *Kladderadatsch* fills its pages with war poems and passionate appeals to the patriotism of its readers. The cartoon, as we should call it, of last week's number represents the Emperor depicted with all his wrinkles, and with more than his rightful protuberance, his foot upon the Rhine, drinking from a bowl of smoking blood. Beneath is the legend, "The monster must needs drink blood to bring back his lost youth. Be it so! He shall have his fill." *Charivari* is not behind its German rival, and presents us with a portrait of a French soldier working a mitrailleuse. Before him is an immense field covered with dead bodies. Soldier *loquitur*, "It is not five minutes since I began, and the war is already over. I suppose I must have turned the handle too fast."

The General Council of the International Working Men's Association has issued an address respecting the war. After stating that the refusal of the working classes in all the industrial centres of France to vote for the Plébiscite was the work of the society, it says that the victory of the Emperor, obtained by the ignorance of the rural population, was the signal for the assassination, not of an individual, but of nations. The "war plot" of July, 1870, it describes as an amended version of the *coup d'état*, and it declares that the French working men are strongly in favour of peace. However the contest may end the death-knell of the Second Empire has already sounded in Paris. If the German working classes allow the war to lose its strictly defensive character, and to degenerate into one against the French people, victory or defeat will prove alike disastrous to them. The address maintains, however, that the principles of the International Association are too widely spread among them for this to be possible.

Improved Arms.—It is quite true that every bullet has its billet, but that billet is generally speaking the ground. In other words, there are hundreds of shots fired for one man killed. We constantly hear now-a-days that war will be fleeting—one great battle, and all will be over. Some people appear to jump to the conclusion that the engines of destruction—the Chassepots, needle-guns, and mitrailleuses—are so deadly that the loss of life will be so fearful that a few battles would suffice to depopulate a country. This certainly does not follow when one side is better armed than the other, as was the case during the war of 1866. The needle-gun told fearfully for the short time it was brought to bear; yet the losses of the campaign throughout were small as compared with that of 1859, or the bloody battles between the Federals and Confederates. The loss at Borodino amounted to one-third of the men engaged; at Marengo, to one-fourth; Waterloo, one-fourth; Talavera, one-eighth; Magenta and Solferino, one-eleventh; and Königgratz, one twenty-third. The English lost one-third at Inkerman, yet there was not a rifled cannon or a breech-loader on the field. Losses in battle have rarely influenced contending nations.—*Globe*.

M. Thiers on the War.—M. Thiers, writing to a friend in England, says he has always been of opinion that the time would come when the ambition of Prussia would have to be resisted by France. But he always supposed that the time would only be when a just occasion arose, and when all the nations of Europe should acknowledge France to be in the right. "If," M. Thiers proceeds, "when I asked for the production of the despatches I could have obtained twenty-four hours' respite, I think that my countrymen, having time for reflection, would perhaps have pronounced for peace. I did not succeed, and now, always faithful to my country's flag, I can only wish for her success, while earnestly desiring that it may be at the least possible cost to humanity, and that it may bring about a lasting peace." The *Times* correspondent says:—"It is related of the Empress Eugénie that on her return from Cherbourg, at dinner at St. Cloud, she surprised all present by proposing a toast. The fortunate mortal thus honoured was no other than M. Thiers. The assembled guests could not believe their ears. Her Majesty condescended to explain: 'To M. Thiers, to whom we are indebted for the fortifications of Paris, a work which now enables us to send to the frontier 100,000 men who otherwise could not have been spared.'"

Military Surgery and the New Weapons.—The *Lancet* states that the opinion of military surgeons that the statements as to the gravity and great size of the wounds, especially of the exit wound, of the Chassepot, as compared with those of the needle-gun, have been exaggerated, and adds:—"The trials with this bullet on horses were some time ago described as causing very large tearing wounds; but one of our correspondents at Rome, who saw the wounded after the battle of Mentana, did not corroborate these statements. We understand that at an experimental trial with a Montigny mitrailleuse in this country, charged with Chassepot bullets, on a number of dummy soldiers to represent infantry, the effect was not considered very satisfactory in a military sense, for only thirty or forty shots took effect out of the 500 or 600 fired. Of the relative merits of Snider and Henry-Martini weapons there can be no doubt. The latter is vastly superior to the former in respect of its trajectory and consequent accuracy at long ranges. The exit wound of the Snider is often very jagged, owing to the hollow nature of the projectile causing it to flatten when coming in contact with the more solid structures of the body; and, being light in weight and rounded in form, it is apt to go round rather than penetrate a bone. The Henry-Martini has a small solid bullet, and it consequently undergoes little or no flattening; it strikes with much greater momentum, and possesses more penetrating power; it is said to go right through bone, pulverising it, and passing out of the body with a relatively small exit-opening. Such at least we are informed have been the results obtained from experiments on the bodies of dead animals."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Franco-Algerian telegraph has been successfully laid.

A true bill has been by the New York Court found against "General" O'Neil, who headed the recent Fenian raid into Canada.

Smallpox in Paris.—This terrible disease still rages fearfully in Paris, no less than 215 deaths from that cause having been registered during the past week.

Scuttling a Ship.—The prisoners charged with the scuttling of the ship Aurora have just been found guilty at Bombay, and have been sentenced, Elmstone and Whitewell, the brokers, to penal servitude for life; Harnott, the captain, to fifteen; and Marks, the carpenter, to ten years' penal servitude.

China.—A Chinese functionary named Schong Ho had been nominated Imperial Ambassador to Paris, to offer satisfaction to the French Government for the massacre at Tientsin. Pekin was tranquil, and no disturbances had occurred in the provinces. A French gunboat had arrived at Tientsin, where the English consul was provisionally entrusted with the protection of French interests. The French flag was immediately saluted.

The Fenian Invaders of Canada.—In the United States Court at Windsor, Vermont, on Saturday, sentence was pronounced upon the Fenian invaders of Canada. General O'Neil was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of ten dollars; Colonel John T. Brown, to nine months' imprisonment and a fine of five dollars; Captain J. J. Monahan, to six months' imprisonment and a fine of one dollar. All had pleaded "Guilty."

The Alabama Claims.—President Grant has communicated to the American Senate the substance of the correspondence which has passed between the British and American Governments relative to the Alabama claims. Lord Clarendon, in a letter to Mr. Motley, dated the 24th of May, said Her Majesty's Government believed that for the settlement of the question at issue it was neither useful nor expedient to continue a controversial correspondence in which there was so little hope of one Government convincing the other.

Slavery in Cuba.—At Havannah, July 11, a large meeting of the leading slaveholders of the western section of the island was held at the Captain-General's palace, De Rodas being chairman. The subject of the abolition of slavery was discussed, and a committee of twenty-five appointed to frame a feasible and liberal plan for the abolition of slavery throughout the island. After the completion of the plan it is to be submitted to the Spanish Cortes for approval. The meeting is said to have been harmonious, and unanimous in the belief that slavery must be abolished.

Slow Torture in China.—The *North China Herald* contains a frightful account of death by slow torture inflicted on a native at Foochow for the crime of kidnapping children. The poor wretch was exposed by the side of the street in a wooden cage of such a height that while his head protruded through the top he could just touch the bottom with his toes. His hands were tied behind him and his ankles were chained together. He was then only supported by his neck and the tips of his toes. Some of the crowd threw little bits of broken brick into the cage. He was deprived of all food, and in this state left to die.

The International Yacht Match.—Great Britain has carried off the honours in the international yacht race. A cable despatch from New York announces that the Cambria and the Dauntless arrived at that port on Wednesday last, the former coming in about an hour before the latter. It is stated that the two yachts never sighted each other after the night of the start. On the voyage the Cambria carried away two foretopmasts, but replaced them with spare ones which she had on board. The Dauntless had the misfortune to lose two of her crew in a gale, and lost three hours in a vain effort to save them.

Woman's Rights.—The degree of "Bachelor" of Laws has been conferred on a married lady in America. Mrs. Kepley, the lady in question, is the wife of Mr. H. B. Kepley, a practising lawyer of Effingham, in Chicago. Having for some years had a desire to be admitted to the Bar, she commenced at her own home reading various legal text-books. Wishing to take a thorough course, she, with the full consent of her husband, went to Chicago, entered the law department of the University, and pursued the regular course of study prescribed by that institution to the end, and then passed a creditable examination. She obtained her diploma, but in consequence of a recent decision of the Supreme Court was unable to obtain a certificate to practise. —*Law Times*.

Miscellaneous News.

The Hon. F. Charteris.—An inquest was held on Thursday upon the remains of the Hon. Francis Charteris, eldest son of Lord Elcho, who died a week previous from the effects of a pistol-shot discharged by himself. The evidence went to prove that the deceased habitually carried a revolver with him when travelling, and that he frequently showed much carelessness in handling firearms. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Execution.—Andrew Carr, a pensioner, was executed on Thursday morning at eight o'clock within Richmond Prison, Dublin, for the murder of Margaret Murphy, an unfortunate girl, in Bull-lane, on the 16th of June. No persons were present but the sheriff, the gaol officers, and members of the press. The prisoner was penitent, but very firm, and ascended the scaffold without assistance. He was attended by the Catholic clergyman, and continued to pray aloud up to the last moment. The fall was too great—fourteen feet, and the consequence was dreadful. The head was completely severed from the body.

Fenian Prisoners.—The members of the commission appointed by the Government to inquire into the treatment of the Fenian prisoners in the convict prisons, the president of which body is the Earl of Devon, have been engaged in their investigations at the Chatham convict prison, during the last few days. The principal witness examined has been Dr. J. J. D. Burns, the chief medical officer of the convict establishment, who has given some important evidence which entirely negatives the charge of the Fenian prisoners having been improperly treated during their imprisonment at Chatham. Mrs. Rossa, the wife of O'Donovan Rossa, one of the Fenian convicts, whose alleged ill-treatment was brought before Parliament, has been permitted to be present during the inquiry.

The Jewess Case.—The solicitors for the defendants in the celebrated case of Lyons *v.* Thomas (the so-called Cardiff abduction case), have written a letter in answer to one published by Mr. Lyons. They enter at some length into the details of the case, and maintain that they suggested a compromise some weeks before the case was argued in the court. Mr. Lyons, according to this account, saw his daughter Esther alone upon two occasions, and was told there was no objection to his daughter's returning with him to Cardiff, if he could persuade her to do so, but he failed. Miss Lyons afterwards refused to see her father, and declared her conviction that such interviews were useless. "She is," add the solicitors, "now nearly twenty-one years of age, and is a young lady of strong determination." Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, according to this account, have not been parties to any of the negotiations, and have not communicated with Miss Lyons since the trial.

The Wheat Harvest.—The *Chamber of Agriculture Journal* discusses the probable yield of wheat in this year's harvest. It says:—"Until full and detailed reports are before us—which can only be the result of an elaborate collection of opinions from the growers themselves—we anticipate something like an average yield of wheat as the due effect of a glorious season upon a defective plant. And when we say 'an average,' we mean so—the term signifying a moderate crop, half way between the full yield of some years and the failing produce of others; and not the very nice crop, just short of being excessive, which some farmers call an 'average.' Barley, we fear, is in much the same case as wheat. Oats, we expect, will be considerably below an average. Peas may be an average; beans must be very much under an average. The principal deduction from the history of the crop and the season is that we are reaping in England a moderate yeld of wheat. France, we learn, is in the same predicament. Harvesting is well forward, and thrashing is busily proceeding in the principal corn-growing districts of that country. In portions of the south-west, on the Swiss frontier, in the basin of the Garonne, in parts of Normandy, Beauce, Brie, and other northern departments, the wheat is abundant and of fine quality. But in the remainder of France, excepting favourable spots, the harvest is deficient, and a bad yield partly compensated for by good quality. As Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, North and South Germany, Poland, the Danubian provinces, and Russia have also suffered, though in varying degrees, from the same causes which have afflicted England and France, it is not surprising that ill reports of the harvest arrive from those countries. And when, in the face of an evident European deficiency, we receive the official estimate of a short wheat crop in the United States, we take for granted that our home farmers should be in no hurry to market their new wheat, for prices must inevitably rise."

Literature.

*VAN LENNEP'S ASIA MINOR.**

We must confess to some feeling of disappointment relative to this book. From an intelligent and thoughtful man, who has for thirty years been engaged in missionary work in Turkey, we expected a more elaborate account of the condition of the people, and especially of the state of religious parties among them; but this it is not. There is a great deal in it, indeed, that is instructive and interesting; but the general effect of the book is injured by the want of arrangement. The author has abundance of materials, and, though he craves the indulgence of the reader for his style, on account of his having had to use so many different languages during his long course of missionary labour, yet he can tell a story with considerable spirit, and his narrative is by no means lacking in life and vividness. What we desiderate is a more systematic treatment of his subject—a more distinct separation between the records of personal experiences in his journeys in the country, and his general observations on Turkish society and the influence of Christian work. This is, however, rather an objection to the form than to the substance of the book, and, dismissing this, we find much to commend. The book is as different as possible from the productions of a class of tourists who seem to fancy that a hasty scamper through a country qualifies them to describe the distinctive features of its society, and sit in judgment on the character and habits of its people. Dr. Van Lennep evidently has a thorough acquaintance with the region which he describes, and that region is for the most part one of which Europeans know but little. A man must be very unobservant, or very narrow-minded and unsympathetic, who can live thirty years among a people without acquiring some knowledge of them, and our author is neither one nor the other. He has a keen eye, and, if we may judge from his work, a genial and happy spirit; he is evidently a capital traveller, as well as an earnest and devoted missionary; he is ready for the careful research of scientific inquiry, or for the excitement of a hunt, as well as for the great work more properly belonging to his position, and he thus imparts a good deal of diversified interest to his volume.

Tocat, on the river Iris, was for a long time the scene of Dr. Van Lennep's labours, and it naturally, therefore, occupies no small space in the book. As a place of considerable size and importance, the seat of some prosperous manufactures, and the residence of a number of wealthy Armenians who retire here to enjoy the fortunes they have amassed, its social life gives an idea of the condition of the Peninsula in its most favourable aspect, and as such it is fully described. The town lies in a hollow, and in its vicinity in "a tunnel-shaped gorge commencing on the south-east edge of the town, "and running south," are rich and highly-cultivated vineyards, to which the inhabitants resort in summer, taking up their residence in little houses, which though very comfortless, afford a necessary relief from the impure atmosphere of the town itself. An idea of the general insecurity of the country may be gathered from the fact that the exodus from town to country is of necessity always simultaneous and almost universal. "The people never go to the "vineyards except *en masse*, altogether, for "mutual protection. They take with them "everything they need to use during their "stay, and carry it back when they return to "town, leaving the house completely bare. "Robbers sometimes take up their quarters in "these empty houses." Under such circumstances the police service becomes a matter of considerable importance, and it is discharged by a class of men, called the Bekji, who occupy towers of observation such as we find referred to in the Bible as the "lodge in the "garden of cucumbers," or the "tower in the "midst of the vineyard" by Isaiah, and as "the "booth that the keeper maketh," by Job. A comparison of the towers now employed, of which we have a good engraving given here with these Scriptural allusions, shows how immobile are Asiatic habits and customs. A good many Biblical illustrations of this kind are scattered through the work, but they are only incidentally introduced, and have less prominence than we might have expected in a book from a man of our author's knowledge and sympathies.

Dr. Van Lennep has spared no pains to give us an accurate idea of the state of morals and civilisation among the people, and altogether gives us an idea of a society so far removed from our own that it has all the attraction of novelty. As we might expect, Oriental love of ease, the neglect of the Government, and the easy habits of the people, have left their traces everywhere. A better illustration could hardly be found than in the history of mining operations, which, says our author, "would make a startling chapter "upon the incapacity and stupidity of the ruling "race in Turkey. There is no country of its "extent richer in precious ore, yet it mostly lies "untouched, and what is worked is done in the "most bungling manner. They will not listen "to advice, and reject the most brilliant offers, "simply because they shrewdly see that those "who make these offers will gain more than "they, and they think no one ought to make "anything out of it but their precious selves." An amusing example of the careless ease of the people, on the other hand, is given by the author in his description of their gardens:—"Most of "the houses in Tocat have a garden, but in the "absence of any care or regularity in the laying "of them out, they are not very remarkable for "beauty. The ornament, however, most prized "is the marble tank—square, oblong, or octa-"gonal—*with a spout in the centre always out of "order*. They would not give up that spout in "centre for a good deal, though it does not play "once in a generation; but they sit there and "think now nice it would be to see it work, and "it is almost the same as if they did see it." In everything there is the same indifference, owing partly, perhaps, to climate and partly to race, but still due to the absence of a wise and vigorous Government.

Missionary work among such people is not easy. Of the old Turkish fanaticism, indeed, there is but little in the region. The course of events has taught the Moslem some hard lessons, and he has had so often to be indebted for the preservation of his power to the Giaours that he can no longer afford to treat them with the mingled hatred and contempt that prevailed half a century ago. Christians still suffer, indeed, not so much from our oppression and injustice on the part of the rulers but the ferocity of the ignorant part of the population. But this is not by any means what it was. In one of their expeditions Dr. Lennep's party met a display of the old spirit on the part of an Imam who had come from Imasia to assist the inhabitants of the little village through which they were passing in the public services of Bairam. He was provoked by the language of a native Christian in the company, and showed his rage by crying out "Say God is God alone, "and Mohammed is his prophet, or I beat you. "Oh! if I only had a stick, I would make a "Muslem of you." The singular thing that instead of the people sympathising with him they were disposed rather to resent his conduct as an insult to their guests, and to protect them from his rage. It is among the Oolemas only, the Mohammedan enthusiasts whose whole time is given to the study of religious books, or the celebration of Moslem rites, that the old spirit survives in undiminished strength. We cannot follow our author into the detailed account of his missionary labours, but the following sketch of his beginnings at Tocat is well told.

"It was in 1854. We approached the city on the left bank of the river; the few enlightened men who had been hoping and praying for our speedy and safe arrival, had come out about three miles to meet us, and, as we rode together toward the town, they sang the hymns they had lately learned, and which were their comfort in their trials. Several children were riding before or behind their fathers on the same horse. My wife, with our one-year-old babe (the same Master Willie who was now with me on this journey), rode in a tahtaravan, which we had been obliged to adopt at Marsovan, finding him too heavy to carry in the arms. Our company fell into a sort of file when we entered the streets of the town. We found that the news of our arrival had stirred up the whole population; and as Europeans, or Franks as all such are called, are a rare sight, and a preacher of the hated Protestant heresy still more so, there was a general turn-out along the whole line of our path to see us go by. Men, women, and children crowded at the doors, the balconies, and roofs, and in some places even lined both sides of the street. We, however, saw anything but welcome in the expression of their countenances. Meanwhile the baby had awaked from his nap, and discovering that there were houses and people about, made an effort to get a sight of them. His mother opened the little window in front and put him there; he held on with both hands, and was soon laughing and crowing with delight. The first part of our procession only elicited frowns from the spectators, but when the tahtaravan appeared with the laughing babe in the window, they had to give way; they called out to each other: 'See, they have a baby! God bless him!' The contagion spread from the child to the people, and the women and children especially were pointing towards him and laughing with delight. Some of them have since assured us that the child then stole their hearts.

"And thus we entered upon our missionary labours. The old house we went into occupied a fine position on the hill side, whence the whole town appeared as a panorama beneath and around us; but it was a great crumbling ruin. Its original builder, the Dere Bey already alluded to, was only nominally subject to the Sultan, and exercised uncontrolled authority over the whole region. He built this house by compelling people to work gratis. There were some magnificent pieces of timber in the building; it is related that he would order a beam of a certain size and thickness, and if, when brought, it was found in the least degree short, he would order it back to the very spot where it had been cut, however great the distance or arduous the road. He was a most unmerciful tyrant, and the narrow stone prison was yet standing in the cellar in which his victims were confined. His cruelty was sometimes refined by irony; for when a man, whom he had condemned to die, fell at his feet and implored him to spare his life, he would facetiously say to him, 'Now, I beg you, just please me this once, and go and be beheaded; next time it will be as you please.' The monster was not such in heart alone, but in body as well; for he was dwarfish, deformed, a hump-back, and altogether extremely ugly; but cunning, cruel, and vindictive. He finally fell by his own weapons. The emissaries of the Sultan succeeded in enticing him out of his stronghold, bowstringed him, and sent his head to their master.

"It seemed truly an act of Divine justice that this house should become the centre of philanthropic and evangelical labours."

Of actual opposition to his work, Dr. Van Lennep encountered less than he might have anticipated; but his position was not an easy or enviable one. Of course, the zealous Moslems were irritated by the presence of Christian teachers, and the Armenians had hardly a better feeling towards Protestant heretics, whose name they had converted into Porod, a word signifying leprous, in order to express their hatred. But he and his friends were preserved from serious disaster, though their safety was due to their own care, rather than the protection of the authorities. Before settling in Asia Minor, the Doctor was a believer in the principle of non-resistance; but circumstances were too much for him, and, though he rejoices that he never injured any human being, he confesses how much he was indebted to the reputation of the firearms which he found it necessary to keep. The following is an amusing account of the way in which his personal safety was secured:—

"It was a feudal system, in fact; and it had arisen from the decay of all justice and right in the Government courts. There was nothing to do but to conform to this state of things. So I decided to adopt an entirely different set of tactics, and it was not long before I had occasion to put their efficacy to the test. A lad had thrown stones at our servant, and when reprimanded had drawn out a large knife and tried to stab him. I found upon inquiry that the boy belonged to a tribe of Lesghies from Daghestan, settled here for fifty years as the 'Sultan's guests,' having been driven from their homes by the Russians. A complaint was sent, therefore, not to the Governor nor the judge, but to the chief of the Lesghies, an old man, who was the last of the independent khans of that country. The accompanying message was that 'it would be a shame to complain to the authorities respecting any of his people, and I desired to maintain friendship with him.' He immediately sent back a kindly reply, and the culprit and his father soon followed; the latter fell at my feet, and expressed his readiness to kill the boy if I so ordered. I of course declined the offer, but told him he must punish him with his own hand if he did not wish to see him some day beheaded as a murderer. He at once stepped out, stripped the boy, tied his feet to a pole which he had held by two men, and struck furiously upon his bare soles with a switch. The lad screamed lustily, and I had to interfere for his relief. When set at liberty, he jumped up, and leaving his shoes behind him, unmindful of his sore feet, dashed off down the hill with the fleetness of a frightened hare. I have since then had occasion to repeat the experiment, and have never found it to fail.

"As for our personal security, we found it necessary to maintain friendly relations with the most influential people in the town, by rendering them such little offices of kindness as came within our reach. A call upon them at the time of the principal yearly festivals, with a present of a shilling or two divided among the servants, a few flower or vegetable seeds sent us from home and not to be found here—these and the like trifles went farther than firmans, vizierial letters, and the whole tribe of embassadorial documents. The latter were repeatedly sent by our over-anxious diplomatic friends at the capital; but we never presented them, for the only effect they could produce would be, in ordinary cases, to give the impression that we were afraid, and thus encourage evil-doers. It is generally believed in the interior that such documents can always be had for money, and by no means indicate the purposes and intentions of the authorities at the capital. I always felt that if the worst came to the worst, I should have to defend with my own hands our lives and those of my family. In order, however, to remove if possible the probability of such a necessity, I kept good weapons and often showed that I knew how to use them. The natives were awed by the mysterious power of repeating firearms. But what impressed their imagination most strongly was a kind of pop-gun, as it may be called, a light plaything but three feet long, which could be instantly charged with a cap containing fulminating powder and a ball, on the Flobert principle, but possessed of sufficient power to kill a chicken at fifty yards. The little noise it made, and the rapidity with which it was loaded, seemed to them quite appalling. It cannot be doubted that our lives were more than once saved by the fame of these weapons. Once, indeed, in the spring of 1856, I passed with a party through a forest where a band of robbers were lying in wait, as we subsequently ascertained. They would have attacked us; but one of their own number stopped them by saying that was the Tocat Frank, whose gun fired twenty times to one loading, never missed fire, and always hit. The revolving rifle referred to was not with us at all. But two of these fellows were subsequently caught, and inquired of their captors whether the report were correct, and they had the impudence to tell them that their only mistake

* *Travels in Little-known Parts of Asia Minor.* By the Rev. H. J. VAN LENNEP, D.D. Two Vols. (London: John Murray.)

was about the number of the shots, for, said they, that gun fires thirty times to one loading."

The character of these extracts is enough to show that the book has considerable interest. We could easily have enriched our columns with other pieces of personal adventure equally stirring, and equally well told. The student will value the work for its contributions of solid information; but a reader in quest of a lively, entertaining book, may also find in it abundance to amuse a leisure hour; while to the Christian worker it is a most suggestive record of missionary labour, full of useful hints, and of cheering indications of real progress.

*THE MEDIÆVAL PAPACY.**

Mr. Reichel has done service in this succinct and popular account of the Church of the Middle Ages. He has seized the true import of his great theme in aiming, as he has done, at relating the history of the Church of Rome, especially in its earlier prosperous period, with the course of civilisation and true progress. "The annals of Pagan Rome, from the first to "the fifth centuries, revolve about the history "of her Emperors; not otherwise does the "history of Western Christendom, from the "seventh to the sixteenth centuries, revolve "about the institution of the Papacy." The influence of the Church at first, in bringing under subjection the ruling powers of the rude nations, and then in some sort protecting the people against their overbearing injustice, is the main fact of the first centuries of the Middle Ages. Tithes, for instance, were originally paid, not alone for the maintenance of the clergy, but chiefly for the use of the poor, or for the redemption of captives. And Mr. Reichel is right, too, in tracing the decline of the Church, from a very early period, to the predominance of political motives, which were at first only directed to establish ecclesiastical influence, so as to make the Bishop of Rome supreme as a medium of right between the strong and the weak.

"When justice could not be got at home, owing to the undue influence of powerful nobles, it could be got abroad at a court which was usually exempt from the influence of both contending parties; and if, in her pursuit of power, Rome sometimes decided on the side of wrong, such instances of injustice were rare. They generally arose from the unwillingness of one of the parties to appear before her tribunal. Her decisions—be it said to her credit—were mostly just, and in the interests of humanity. Influence wielded by the Church was attended with the most beneficent results on the civil relations of society. The practice of slavery, common among the Germanic nations, as it had been among the Greeks and Romans, but inwardly opposed to the true spirit of Christianity, was gradually mitigated under the Church's influence, until it waned, and at length entirely disappeared. Frequent instances occur of slaves being set at liberty by bishops, sometimes—as in the case of Gregory the Great—from the highest Christian motives, but at other times preparatory to their being received into the clerical order. Often, however, slaves were ordained by bishops without being previously enfranchised, or else received into monasteries, such clergy being absolutely at the bishop's disposal. The fact that slaves were admitted to orders at all could not fail to place them in an advantageous light before the eyes of the people. It brought home to that superstitious race the truth of the common brotherhood of man. In other ways, too, the Church held out a helping hand to lessen the sufferings of slaves."

But this could only be said, as Mr. Reichel has said it, of the first century or two, after the death of Gregory the Great. The very influence which was directed thus towards the assertion of the rights of individualism through the Church, soon came to conflict with the political aggrandisement which was sought, and which issued in that fatal distinction which ran at last to such lengths, between a high-born and a low-born—an aristocratic and a democratic clergy. The seed of disunion and disruption were sown in the very chasms which the Church in these early times tried to bridge over by politic inclusions of the Teutonic peoples. And here we think Mr. Reichel has a little erred in not devoting more attention to the earlier history of the Roman See. Certainly the greatest thing about Rome is its rise, and certainly one of the most remarkable facts in connection with it is this, that the man who did most to give both ecclesiastical and political influence to the Roman See did not aim at the attainment of either.

"No one was less anxious than Gregory to claim for himself an absolute ecclesiastical sovereignty. No one was less anxious to use his primacy, except in the cause of justice and truth; *no one more paved the way for its later abuses.* . . . Gregory, the greatest bishop that had hitherto been chosen to preside over the Western Patriarchate, could call himself, '*Servum servorum Dei*'; and yet this servant of servants, if Leo I. is excepted, stands out immeasureably above his predecessors and successors for centuries."

The one idea of the great Gregory was to make the Church a medium of political development and a guarantee of liberty, while itself remaining as far as possible, non-political. But his successors did not discriminate, as did Gregory, between means and ends; and when Hildebrand kept the Emperor Henry standing barefooted in the snow at the gate of Canossa, we see political supremacy asserted for scarce any end beyond itself, and the temporary gratification of beholding the humiliation of the representative of a long line of Emperors.

"Gregory (VII.) had pushed matters too far. Earnest and sincere as he was in his desire to reform the Church, and in his view of his own exalted position, he had too deeply entrenched on the prerogative of the secular power to escape the penalty of his rashness. The German princes might meet and elect a rival Emperor; Gregory might anew pronounce sentence of excommunication on Henry, when Henry seemed completely conquered at the battle of Flarcheim; but retribution at length overtook the Pope. He had invoked the sword to defend his prerogative. To the sword he owed his own exile from Rome. The scene at Canossa had been one of insolent triumph for the priest; the scene at Salerno was its counterpart for the Emperor."

Gregory the Great gave the Papacy much of its spiritual character; and, in failing to catch the spirit that had actuated him, while they followed the tradition of his desire for unity and influence, his successors became mere schemers for power. The Papacy, in struggling to adapt itself to the new forces that were now rushing in upon it like waves, set behind the tight lines of Latin organisation—a vital expanding element certain sooner or later to burst and break these lines in pieces. The struggle was great. The tight-set steel spring bent and turned back for a moment, only to resume its old position always, the declaration of infallibility the other day being its last flickering, feeble movement. The irruption of Teutonic individualism, in other words, the Reformation, was only the culmination of a long process; and do we not see symptoms and prophecies of it centuries before in, for one thing, the exemption of the clergy from military service, which, rendering it necessary that lower clergy should be chosen from bondsmen, mainly gave rise to that distinction of high-born and low-born clergy, which before long paved the way for the abolition of free election? "The laity, who had "learned from Gregory VII. to oppose their "clergy, in the next century learnt from Arnold "how to oppose their Pope, and the full harvest "of the rebellion of which Gregory sowed the "seed in the year 1074, was gathered in the "time of Luther, when the Teutonic laity threw "off their allegiance to the Pope for ever." This Mr. Reichel writes in his section on the "Greatness of the Papacy," hinting how arbitrary in all such matters must be historical divisions. Already he clearly sees that the thin end of the wedge of disruption has been inserted into the fabric; thus justifying his own words: "The Papal power, like the sur-"face of the sea, presents in its growth a con-"stant succession of varying levels. At one "moment it rises on the crest of a wave, at "another it is depressed in the adjoining "hollow."

The lesson of Mr. Reichel's book is this, that spiritual and ecclesiastical life suffer loss and decrepitude when practically and inseparably allied with disturbing political forces. He himself is a little at a loss how to escape from a plain and direct acknowledgment of this; and sometimes, when glancing at remembrancers of the legacy which the Church of England received from Rome, he is a little put out of countenance. Perhaps the best specimen we can give of this, of which there are several in Mr. Reichel's book, is when he escapes apologetically into a footnote, there to relieve himself on the principle of political patronage, which appears to have arisen on his mind now and then in a way to cause him some doubtfulness and distress:—

"The system of patronage is one for which no precedent can be cited from the first age of Christianity. The earlier councils uphold the free election of the clergy and declare ordinations not preceded by free elections invalid. *Theoretically* it is a system which can only be defended on the most extreme sacerdotal theory—the theory that all the clergy of one grade are so exactly equal, that it is a matter of no moment whether one or the other is appointed. The nomination may then be safely left to an individual. Unfortunately, however, theory and experience do not on this point agree. Nevertheless, *practically*, a plea may be advanced for patronage. Is it not better to have patronage than the scandals, the corruption, and the jobbery, which would be the result of popular elections? *After all, patronage has grown to be what it is.* When it first came into use, none but the patron may have been competent to give an opinion on the suitability of the candidate. Besides, when the feudal system was strong, any form of election would have been practically in the hands of the feudal lord. Yet, no doubt as feudal relations relaxed, it would have been otherwise; and ecclesiastical elections, had they been continued, would have been quite as free from feudal influences now as political elections are. Taking, however, into consideration the abuses of the latter, one would hardly plead for the introduction of ecclesiastical elections which, however consonant they may be with justice and the practice of the early Church, would be practically a new system to us. *But one may well claim some power of veto* for the congregation, that they may not have clergy forced upon them against their will."

We certainly respect Mr. Reichel's candour The historian here wrests the pen for the moment from the Churchman. Mr. Reichel acknowledges that the Church of Rome, on a gigantic scale, witnesses to the failure of the experiment of ecclesiastical and political identity. We are glad to read such words, whose significance cannot be denied, even although they are compelled to dwindle into the small-type of a foot-note.

Mr. Reichel's book is well written, at once elegant and forcible, and combines correctness with the ease and freedom of first-rate spoken discourse. We shall be glad to meet with him again in similar walks of research and thought.

* *The See of Rome in the Middle Ages.* By the Rev. Oswald J. Reichel, B.C.L. and M.A., Vice-Principal of Cuddesdon College. (Longmans.)

BRIEF NOTICES.

Sermons preached in the Temple Church, by the Rev. Alfred Ainger, M.A., of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Reader at the Temple Church, London. (Macmillan and Co., 1870.) These sermons are full of force and freshness. Their force is to be attributed mainly to their faith, and their freshness to their fearlessness. Mr. Ainger is superior to the creeds of his Church, and the conventionalisms of the pulpit. This is shown not only by the topics he has taken, but also by the method of his handling. He preaches in Fleet-street and at the Temple Church, and so we have "Murder, Ancient and "Modern," "Culture and Temptation," "The Voices "of Great Crowds," &c. Addressing those who have received a university education, he quotes the ancient and modern classics. Acquainted with the religious difficulties of the day, and discarding the theological figments of the schools, he yet speaks as if he believes the faith once delivered to the saints. We have not met with a single sentence that would be commonly regarded as eloquent, nor have we met with one which we should like to have missed. There are many passages we should wish to quote—we take this one from the sermon on "Culture and Temptation."

"And He (I use the phrase with all reverence, deliberately) was 'a man of culture.' 'And it came to pass, that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing and asking them questions; and all that heard Him were astonished at his understanding and answers.' 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.' Forget not for a moment the divinity of our Lord; His recorded words are the best commentary on this statement of the sacred historian—words so profound, far reaching, original, as to have no parallel in the world's history. Such a being was He on whom the Tempter had to exercise his influence. Satan was too wise to come to Him with temptations that could not tempt. He fitted the things he offered to the character, the nature, the position of Him whom he wished to vanquish. He did not offer low pleasures, common honours, the objects which the vulgar pursue after. They could have presented no attraction to Him; even as, my brethren, the grosser pleasures of the uneducated perhaps offer no temptation to ourselves. The Tempter came to Him, quoting texts of Scripture, and offering inducements to sin clothed in a garb which made them seem like invitations to good. 'Use your miraculous power,' He said, 'to turn these stones into bread.' 'Why not?' a common spirit might have rejoined, common spirits have so made answer many times since. Why not have turned the power, since it has been given us, to the first and most pressing need of the body? Because, so the Divine sufferer made answer, 'we do not live by bread alone.' We may not prostitute the power which is God's to ends that are not His. Divine gifts are for Divine ends. 'Spirits are not finely touched, but to fine uses.' Education is a spiritual discipline; a lifting us out of ourselves. We may not make it a minister to ourselves. We are not to stay turning stones into bread; using great gifts, for sense, for enjoyments, for self. As we are raised into a higher region, we must labour to help others to rise into it, to draw others along the same upward path. Culture is to subserve the law of sacrifice, the law which found its highest fulfilment in the greatest of all sacrifices. 'I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men unto me.'"

Nine Sermons on the Lord's Supper; with a Special Reference to Controversies of the Present Times. By the Rev. Arthur Wolfe, M.A., Rector of Fordham All Saints, and of Westley, Bury St. Edmunds. (London: Longmans. 1867.) The authority for legally employing such things as lights, incense, vestments, crosses, supposed to have been discovered in a rubric about "ornaments," and the excitement which has for some time past prevailed on the subject of such usages, have occasioned these sermons. Mr. Wolfe writes knowing that the real subject of the controversy is not the "or-"naments," but the doctrine they are intended to symbolise. The Scriptural basis for the doctrine of the "real objective Presence" in the Lord's Supper is examined here.

The Testimony of David; Drawn from the Psalms of David. By the Rev. Alfred Gatty, D.D., Vicar of Ecclesfield, and Sub-Dean of York. (London: Bell and Daldy. 1870.) This little work does not aspire to be critical, but practical and useful. It may serve those who care for the Prayer-book Version, as a "morning or evening portion."

The Stepping-stone to Homœopathy and Health. Seventh Edition. By E. H. Ruddock, M.D. (Jarrold and Sons.) This is an enlarged edition of this very useful and cheap little medical guide. It has in addition to general information on the subject of disease, a Materia Medica and a Clinical Dictionary which, considering the size of the book, are very comprehensive.

Miscellaneous.

M. DE LESSEPS.—The honorary freedom of the City of London was presented to M. De Lesseps on Saturday at a special general court of the Common Council. An eloquent address of presentation was delivered by Mr. Scott, the Chamberlain, to which M. De Lesseps made a suitable reply.

REV. SYDNEY SMITH ON WAR.—If three men were to have their legs and arms broken, and were to remain all night exposed to the inclemency of the weather, the whole country would be in a state of the most dreadful agitation. Look at the wholesale deaths of a field of battle, ten acres covered with dead, and half dead, and dying; and the shrieks and agonies of many thousand human beings. There is more of misery inflicted on mankind, by one year of war, than by all the civil peculations and aggressions of a century. Yet it is a state into which the mass of mankind rush with the greatest avidity, hailing official murderers, in scarlet, gold, and cock's feathers, as the greatest and most glorious of human creatures. It is the business of every wise and good man to set himself against this passion for military glory, which really seems the most fruitful source of human misery.

THE BANQUET TO HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS, annually given by the Lord Mayor, took place on Saturday night, at the Mansion House. The speech-making was of an unusually interesting character, and the observations of Mr. Gladstone on the war were received with applause. The Prime Minister referred to the war as the saddest and most melancholy event this country has presented. He pointed out that the duty of England was to maintain a just, absolute, impartial, and dignified neutrality, and maintained that there never was a period when, whether in regard to our forces, or to the temper of the country, a Ministry could meet a discussion as to England's safety with more confidence, or a greater conviction that whatever may arise, this nation will be found equal to its duties. The other speakers were the Lord Mayor, who was extremely complimentary; Mr. Cardwell, who added "The Reserve Forces" to the toast of "The Army and Navy," for which he returned thanks; the Lord Chancellor, who praised the House of Lords and the Irish Land Bill; and Mr. Bruce, who, representing "The Commons," said that the members on returning to their constituents after the session would be greeted "as good and faithful servants." Mr. Lowe wound up the festivities with a learned speech in toasting "The Ladies," which he thought was a custom which came into fashion at the siege of Troy.

THE LIBERATOR PERMANENT BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.—The second annual meeting of this society was held at the Guildhall Coffee House on the 29th inst., S. R. Pattison, Esq., in the chair. Mr. J. Spencer Balfour, the secretary, presented the report, which showed the most satisfactory results. Comparing the two years of the society's operations, it appears that in the first year 801 shares were subscribed for, representing 5,297*l.* 17s. 4d. of actual receipts, and future receipts to the amount of 18,732*l.* 2s. 8d., while in the year just ended the shares subscribed for have been 1,267, representing 12,203*l.* 16s. 2d. of actual receipts, and future receipts to the value of 25,806*l.* 3s. 11d. In the first year the deposits were 2,528 10s. 6d., and the advances on approved mortgage securities were 6,867*l.* 10s. In the past year the deposits have been 7,565*l.* 1s. 3d., and the advances on equally good, or even ampler securities, 15,779*l.* 16s. The year's profits on premiums have been 1,969*l.* The net amount remaining at the credit of profit and loss account, after allowing 5 per cent. interest on paid-up and subsbription shares, was 1,169*l.*, out of which a bonus of 2 per cent. was voted on paid-up shares and 500*l.* placed to the credit of the reserve fund. The Chairman vouched for the care which the directors bestowed upon the society's affairs, and particularly the manner in which they scrutinise every security offered to them. On the motion of the Rev. Dr. Brock, 250*l.* was voted for the directors, and, after the usual votes of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and officers, the meeting broke up.

Gleanings.

Rattening is by no means at an end in Sheffield. Six cases are reported during the last week.

The committee of the House of Lords have decided that the Government will purchase the Jersey and Guernsey Telegraph Company.

A crab has been caught in Yokohama Bay which weighed about 40lb., had legs over five feet in length, and its mouth contained two large teeth. When in the water its strength was such that it could have quite overpowered a man.

The *South London Press* mentions a most revolting illustration of what may result from gross ignorance. A woman brought to a surgery the other day a child in a nearly dying state, and the doctor elicited from her that she had been administering spiders to it as a cure for whooping-cough.

"LOTHAIR" IN AMERICA.—Within six weeks of their publication of "Lothair" the Messrs. Appleton sold 52,000 copies of that novel. The sale in England in the same period was 6,000 copies. Here the different editions were sold at one dol. and two dols. per copy, while in England the price was seven and a half dols. On either side of the Atlantic, therefore, the reading public laid down nearly the same sum for the gratification of its intellectual tastes. It is likely, however, that the distinguished statesman whose history involves so much that we peculiarly regard as the "American idea," had more readers here than in his own country. It is a measure of his great popularity that "Uncle Tom's Cabin," within the same period after publication, had not sold so largely as "Lothair."—*New York Herald.*

CUCUMBERS.—We consider before using the cucumber it should in every instance be sliced and purged of the preponderance of its acrid and purgative elements by treating with a little salt and then saturated with vinegar for some hours previously—never eaten without it, in fact—otherwise it is very apt to produce an active and severe form of purgation, accompanied by intense pain, and constituting the so-called choleraic diarrhœa.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

NOTICE.—*All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGE.

WEST—GOULD.—July 28, at St. Mary's Chapel, Norwich, by the father of the bride, Alfred Slater West, M.A., of Amersham Hall, Caversham, to Martha, daughter of the Rev. George Gould, of Norwich.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette.*)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, July 27.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£33,394,740	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	18,394,740
	£33,394,740		£33,394,740

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,507,779
Rest	3,409,993		
Public Deposits	5,866,892		
Other Deposits	21,013,328	Other Securities ..	22,829,141
Seven Day and other Bills	568,893	Notes	9,217,130
		Gold & Silver Coin	857,750
	£45,412,100		£45,412,100

July 28, 1870. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Visible or Invisible ailments are alike amendable by the use of these invincible remedies.—In all outward diseases this fine ointment will be found soothing, cooling, and curative. It speedily allays all inflammation and reduces to a healthy condition all wounds, sores, ulcers, and sprains. It discharges all irritating matters, and stimulates the vessels to wholesome action. When this ointment is rubbed on the skin over any organ afflicted by disease, it exercises a corresponding recuperative power, and in conjunction with Holloway's Pills rarely fails to banish any internal disorder, be its origin when or where it may. Whilst using these purifying preparations the tongue cleans, the appetite improves, chills and flushes depart, and the complexion becomes clear.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, March 1.

We had a small supply of English wheat and moderate arrivals from abroad. The market to-day has been extremely depressed, and prices unsettled. English wheat sold at a advance of 1s. per qr. from the prices of Monday last. A moderate extent of business was done in foreign wheat, at a similar improvement. Flour was 1s. per sack and barrel lower. Beans and peas were each 2s. per qr. dearer. Barley is quoted 2s. to 3s. per qr. higher. Indian corn made the turn lower. Arrivals of oats are liberal, and prices 1s. higher since this day week. At allgthe ports of call arrivals are moderate. Wheat has recovered 1s. from the decline of last week. Indian corn rather lower.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.		Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—			PEAS—		
Essex and Kent, red, old	—	to —	Grey	38	to 40
Ditto new	54	57	Maple	43	44
White, old	—	—	White	38	42
,, new	54	61	Boilers	38	42
Foreign red	50	52	Foreign, boilers ..	40	43
,, white ..	52	55			
BARLEY—			RYE	36	38
English malting ..	32	36	OATS—		
Chevalier	40	46	English feed	25	32
Distilling	37	41	,, potato ..	29	36
Foreign	37	43	Scotch feed	—	—
MALT—			,, potato ..	—	—
Pale	—	—	Irish black	23	26
Chevalier	—	—	,, white	27	32
Brown	49	56	Foreign feed	22	27
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
Ticks	43	45	Town made	48	54
Harrow	44	48	Country Marks ..	41	42
Small	—	—	Norfolk & Suffolk	36	38
Egyptian	40	42			

BREAD, London, Saturday, July 30.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 8d. to 8½d.; Household Bread, 7d. to 7½d.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, August 1.—The market has been fairly supplied with meat. The trade has been dull, at about late rates.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Inferior beef .	3	0	to	3	4	Inf. mutton . .	3	8		4	0
Middling ditto .	4	6		4	0	Middling ditto .	4	0		4	4
Prime large do. .	4	4		4	8	Prime ditto . .	4	8		5	0
Do. small do. .	4	8		4	10	Veal	4	8		5	0
Large Pork . .	3	4		3	8	Lamb	5	4		6	0
Small pork . .	4	4		5	0						

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, August 1.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 10,626 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 10,613; in 1868, 11,244; in 1867, 10,217; and in 1866, 18500 head. There were large arrivals of foreign stock on sale here to-day, but the supplies from our own grazing districts fell off considerably. The general quality of the beasts on sale was inferior; but choice beef, being scarce, commanded very full prices. A heavy fall took place in values to-day, owing to the plentiful supplies and the hot weather, the reduction being 4d. per 8lbs., and more in some cases. Best Scots and crosses sold at 5s. per 8lbs., against 5s. 4d. last week. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,500 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England 500 of various breeds. The Scotch season has now come to a close, and there were only a few stray beasts in the market. The number of sheep in the pens was fully up to the average; but the quality of the animals was rather indifferent. There was less activity in the demand for mutton, and prices have with difficulty been maintained—say 5s. 6d. per 8lbs.; but all inferior sheep were lower. Lambs sold slowly, at our quotations. Pork changed hands on former terms; but calves met a dull sale.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts.	2	10	to	3	6	Prime Southdown	5	4	to	5	6
Second quality .	3	8		4	2	Lambs	6	4		6	8
Prime large oxen.	4	4		4	8	Lge. coarse calves	3	10		4	10
Prime Scots, &c..	4	10		5	0	Prime small . .	5	0		5	6
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4		3	8	Large hogs . .	4	6		5	4
Second quality .	3	10		4	6	Neat'm. porkers.	5	4		5	8
Pr. coarse woolled	4	8		5	2						

Suckling calves, 20s. to 26s., and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 26s. each.

PROVISIONS, Monday, August 1.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,611 firkins butter, and 4,049 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 22,869 packages butter, and 3,165 bales bacon. Butter sold well. Foreign generally advanced 4s. to 6s. per cwt. Best Dutch, 124s. to 126s. Irish bacon sold steadily at the late advance. Hamburg has further advanced 4s. per cwt. Lard improved in value about 2s. per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Friday, July 29.—There is a very steady business doing, and the chief articles of demand keep up their prices, both in fruit and vegetables. Hothouse produce, however, has generally declined. Strawberries are nearly over for this season. Amongst flowers we have balsams, pelargoniums, single and double gladioli, heaths, coleus, hydrangeas, fuschias, crassulas, &c.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, August 1.—Considering the period of the season, we have a strong demand for the best home growths of 1869, and also for fine foreign of every description. Reports from the plantations have assumed a more favourable character, the recent heavy rains having greatly benefited the plant. In the best districts of Mid and East Kent the prospect is promising for a large yield, and the Golding plants especially have seldom been seen in greater perfection. In the Weald of Kent and Sussex probably one-third of the gardens are suffering from the long drought, and scarcely any weather now can be of service, the remaining two-thirds look like an average yield. Farnham and Worcester are much in the same condition as Kent and Sussex. Continental reports are mostly good, with complaints of want of rain in the districts of Alsace and Loraine. Reports from the most important hop districts of New York are very gloomy, the continued attacks of vermin having enfeebled the vine to a considerable extent, and the grub or cut worm in particular having done much damage and these facts, coupled with the diminished average and neglected culture, cause our estimate of the crop to be barely half of last year's. The market in New York is very firm, and relative values being higher there than on this side, arrangements have been made by holders in New York to take up freight for the return of some of their shipments. Mid and East Kents, 7*l.* 0s., 9*l.* 5s. to 12*l.* 12s.; Wealds, 6*l.* 0s., 7*l.* 0s., to 8*l.* 0s.; Sussex, 5*l.* 12s., 6*l.* 6s., to 6*l.* 13s.; Bavarians, 6*l.* 6s., 7*l.* 7s., to 9*l.* 0s.; French, 5*l.* 0s., 5*l.* 15s., to 6*l.* 10s.; Americans, 4*l.* 5s., 5*l.* 5s., to 6*l.* 0s.; Yearlings, 1*l.* 10s., 2*l.* 10s., to 3*l.* 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, August 1.—There has been a fair supply of potatoes on sale. The trade has been heavy at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 12 sacks from Dunkirk, 260 cases, 7 baskets, 300 boxes from Cherbourg. English shaws 100s. to 130s. per ton; Regents, 110s. to 130s. per ton; French, 80s. to 90s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, August 1.—New English rapeseed is coming forward freely, and met a good demand from the speculators, fine dry qualities bringing 10s. per bushel; secondary sorts in proportion. New trefoil was offering at very moderate prices, the buyers acting very cautiously. New rye is taking for sowing, from 40s. to 42s. per qr. the best. New winter barley can be bought at about 40s. per qr.; new winter oats, from 26s. to 28s. per qr. Hempseed brought former rates. White mustardseed was quite as dear. Canaryseed, fine qualities, were held higher. New winter tares are now appearing, and samples very fine, but held too high for general buyers; prices scarcely fixed to quote accurately.

WOOL, Monday, August 1.—Owing to the war, business in wool has been dull, French and German buyers having withdrawn from the market. There is no disposition on the part of holders, however, to accept lower rates, particularly for fine qualities of English. The public sales of colonial wool were prematurely closed.

OIL, Monday, August 1.—There has been a slow demand for linseed oil, and there has not been much demand for rape; other oils have been in limited request.

TALLOW, Monday, August 1.—The market has been quiet. Y.C., on the spot, 43s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow 43s. 3d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, August 1.—Market without alteration since last day's rates. Caradoc Wallsend, 18s.; Gosforth ditto, 16s.; Hettons ditto, 18s. 3d.; Haswell ditto, 18s. 3d.; Hartlepool original ditto, 11s. 3d.; Hartlepool East ditto, 18s.; Hartlepool ditto, 17s. 6d.; Heugh Hall ditto, 17s. 6d.; Kelloe South ditto, 17s. 6d.; Tunstall ditto, 16s.; Holywell Main, 17s. 6d.; Hartley's, 17s.; Wylam West, 17s. 6d. Ship fresh arrived, 35; ships left from last day, 6; total, 41. Ships at sea, 15.

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EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „	£1	10
EARRINGS, SAXON, „	£2	5
EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „	£3	5
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LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „	£1	0
LOCKETS, CORDED, „	£2	10
LOCKETS, CROSS, „	£4	0
GOLD WATCHES, LADIES',	£8	8
GOLD WATCHES, „	£10	10
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£15	15
GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£11	11
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£16	16
GOLD WATCHES, „	£20	0
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GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£18	18
CLOCKS, CARRIAGE,	£5	0
CLOCKS, „ (STRIKING),	£7	7
CLOCKS, „ „ (ON GONG),	£12	12
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9	Scarlett, Florence A...	299	22 Holiday, Walter 463
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